

No. 65,479

THURSDAY JANUARY 18 1996

ELIZABETH'S STORY

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■ An acclaimed historian's intimate account of a wife, mother and monarch



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■ Part five: the turbulent marriages of Charles and Andrew  
■ How the Queen faced up to a double family crisis

FILMS

Nicolas Cage gets blind drunk in Las Vegas  
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In the spotlight

Valerie Grove on living and loving with 101 Dalmatians  
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APPOINTMENTS

32 pages of top jobs, Section 3



## Tory grandes 'preparing plot to depose Major'

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Conservative MPs believe that a group of Tory grandes is plotting to oust John Major after the May council elections.

They have told *The Times* that the group includes leading figures previously regarded as loyal to the Prime Minister.

Many MPs and ministers, increasingly despairing of the Government's chances of overhauling

Labour's big lead in the opinion polls, say that the Prime Minister's leadership will come under renewed pressure after heavy losses in the May poll. But the claims that Mr Major is losing the confidence of prominent figures who rallied to his side in last summer's leadership election suggest that the scale of the threat to him is more serious than many Tories have supposed.

Mr Major's backers, who remain numerous, will dismiss the claims, which are being advanced by figures on the Right and the Left of

the party, as no more than a dirty tricks operation by disaffected MPs unable to come to terms with the Prime Minister's victory over John Redwood.

Ministers genuinely loyal to the Prime Minister are adamant that he will fight off any attempt to unseat him. But the fact that rumours of a high-level conspiracy are circulating at Westminster is a further indication that his position has been weakened by the turmoil of the last few weeks, which have seen the defection of Emma Nichol-

son to the Liberal Democrats and Baroness Thatcher's demand for a return to right-wing policies.

It appears that senior Tories

are considering an attempt to replace him for some time. *The Times* has been told that as long ago as last summer loyal backbenchers were taking discreet soundings among colleagues.

Some leading figures in the Lords are rumoured to be involved in the current moves.

Some MPs believe that the

reason Mr Major called the snap leadership election early last July was because he became aware that he was the target of wider dissatisfaction than that voiced by his Euro-sceptic critics.

It is also being suggested that the plot has been reactivated in recent weeks out of despair at the Government's continued dismal poll ratings, the rebirth of the Centre-Left after last summer's Cabinet reshuffle and anger over the Prime Minister's handling of the Nolan report, which requires MPs to

declare their earnings from parliamentary consultancies. One MP who claimed to be aware that something was afoot said: "These people are motivated by one thing alone — power. They believe that the Conservative Party has a divine right to rule and they don't want to pay the higher taxes that would come with a Labour government."

Known dissidents on the Right and the Left have been speculating about a "bloodless coup" in which the leadership is smoothly transferred to Michael Heseltine with-

out the bruising spectacle of a leadership contest. But close friends of Mr Redwood last night discounted such a possibility.

Mr Major was given a boost yesterday as Sir Richard John, the last of the "whippets" Tory rebels, returned to the fold. His Commons majority officially rises to five, although it would drop to three again if the Tories lose the two pending by-elections.

Rebel returns, page 10

Palace refuses to settle £1m debts

## The Queen will not bail out Duchess

By EMMA WILKINS AND ANNE ASHWORTH

THE QUEEN is refusing to help the Duchess of York with debts of more than £1 million, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

The Duchess, whose prolific spending far outreaches her income, is being told to face up to her financial responsibilities alone. The Duchess's office said yesterday that she was quite aware of the Queen's decision and that she was making huge economies. It is legally possible that she could be bankrupted, since she has few assets, but it is unlikely.

As the scale of her problems — including interest charges of up to £90,000 a year — became clear, royal officials pointed to the Queen's substantial provision for her daughters-in-law. She received a £2 million settlement when she separated from her husband four years ago, securing two daughters' futures and giving her a generous income to rent a home.

In a highly unusual move yesterday, the Palace made clear that the Queen was not prepared to intervene any further. "The Duchess's business ventures are conducted quite separately from any royal duties, and any transactions resulting from them must be resolved between the Duchess and her business associates and creditors. They are not a matter for the Queen," a spokesman said.

The Queen has made generous provisions to the Duchess over a number of years and reached a private agreement in 1992.

"Since her separation, the Duchess has carried out no official royal duties and therefore whatever business difficulties she has got into are a matter for her, her bankers and advisors to sort out. It's not up to the Queen."

This could prove an expensive year for the Queen. She may have to contribute to a divorce settlement for the Princess of Wales and if Prince Edward were to become engaged to Sophie Rhys-Jones, the Queen would probably buy the couple a house.



The Duchess will have to deal with creditors

The Duchess's problems stem from her failure to make the fortune she hoped from her *Budget* books, while continuing to lead a lavish lifestyle punctuated by frequent trips overseas.

Redecorating Kingsbourne —, the Victorian mansion in Wentworth, Surrey, that she rents for £6,000 a month — is estimated to have cost tens of thousands of pounds, and the wages bill for her staff of cook, dresser, butler, nanny, chauffeur and a clutch of personal assistants is estimated at £32,000 a month.

She has now embarked on a

cost-cutting exercise, including reducing her staff and abandoning her new year skiing holiday at Klosters. Her press secretary, Dominique Vuillamy, left this week along with her assistant, Simone Canetti-Clarke, and will not be replaced.

Mrs Vuillamy denied yesterday that she had left after arguing with the Duchess, but said it would be inappropriate to comment further. Kate Waddington, another member of the Duchess's staff, said:

The reason that Dominique and her assistant went is because of financial cutbacks. There used to be five of us in

the office, but now there are just three."

Ms Waddington said the Duchess would not comment on her financial affairs — "it's a private matter and nothing more is going to be said" — although she admitted last year that she was in trouble.

In a recent interview, the Duchess said that she intended to spend more time generating income. "I have decided to concentrate on my commercial activities and cut back momentarily my trips for charity. I have to work to earn my living, to be able to provide my daughters with a pleasant upbringing," she said.

She has also insisted that she is making huge cutbacks and that she is scrupulous in separating her charity money and private finances. "Nobody can say that I use any of my charity money for personal use because it would simply not be true. You know the truth is I always pay my way."

The Duchess is said to have her overdraft with Coutts. The bank does not discuss individual accounts, but it said that a customer with a large loan would probably be charged an arrangement fee plus interest at 2 or 2.5 points over the base rate of 0.5 per cent.

All customers with less than £3,000 in their account pay bank charges of 75p per statement entry, plus a £45 quarterly management fee.

Assuming that a customer made a hundred transactions each month — a reasonable number for a freespending globetrotter — and an interest rate of 9 per cent, the annual charge for a £1 million overdraft would be about £91,080.

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Assuming that a customer

## Fire hits NatWest Tower

By CAROL MIDGLEY AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

ONE of the City of London's most famous landmarks, the NatWest Tower, was ravaged by fire yesterday as workers were repairing damage caused by an IRA bomb in 1993.

The blaze on the top of the 45-storey tower sent dense black smoke across the skyline above the financial heart of the capital as 500 workmen in hard hats rushed down fire escapes to evacuate the 600 ft

vacant office block. Experts began their investigation last night into what is likely to be one of the most expensive blazes of recent years.

There were no injuries.

Roads in the area were blocked and fire-fighters were aided by a high-tech airborne infra-red camera that has just started operation on a trial basis. The "spy in the sky" camera picks up heat waves coming from fires and trans-

forms them into pictures. The NatWest Tower had been devastated by the Bishopsgate bomb which killed one person on April 24, 1993. When the tower opened in 1980, it was Europe's tallest building, having cost £72 million and nine years to complete. It was overtaken in height by Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

Estimates for the repairs after the bombing were £50m.

rest of the country. Yesterday's reductions means that a litre of Shell Advanced 4 Star falls from 83.9p to 59.5p while a litre of Shell Advanced Unleaded will fall from 88.9p to 56.0p.

None of the other leading petrol retailers announced price cuts of their own, but industry experts said it was only a matter of time before they followed suit.

Shell and BP said they would be keeping their service station gift promotions.

The latest round of discounting comes in response to aggressive competition from the major supermarket chains, which have taken around 23 per cent of the petrol retail market by selling it as a "loss leader" for their stores.

"We welcome this move by the petrol companies in following the lead we have set," said Tom Vyner, deputy chairman of Sainsbury's. "Our commitment is to offer the best possible

Continued on page 2, col 4

## Oil giants cut more than 4p off petrol prices

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A DISCOUNT war broke out between Britain's largest petrol retailers yesterday when Shell slashed up to 4.4p a litre off its prices from midnight last night at all 2,000 of its garages.

The move came the day after Esso, the market leader with 2,100

forecourts, announced it was scrapping its 10-year-old "Tiger tokens" gift promotion in favour of lower pump

prices throughout the country. Previously, Esso had concentrated its price reductions in the North East of England and central Scotland. Its new pledge promising pump prices "among the lowest available" and "normally unbeatable" is likely to result in cuts of at least 3p a litre.

David Pirret, general manager of Shell UK's retail division, said: "We have competed vigorously in a regional price war for around six months and are now offering lower prices to the

rest of the country." Yesterday's reductions means that a litre of Shell Advanced 4 Star falls from 83.9p to 59.5p while a litre of Shell Advanced Unleaded will fall from 88.9p to 56.0p.

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Continued on page 2, col 4

FURTHER REDUCTIONS  
AT THE AUSTIN REED SALE.

24-25 JANUARY 1996

REGENT STREET, LONDON AND BRANCHES COUNTRYWIDE

## Revealed! Blair's oh so simple stakeholder masterplan

The secret is out. Labour's plans for Britain are clear at last. Now we know what Tony Blair meant in Singapore by "stakeholder" Britain. Details were revealed to MPs yesterday by Margaret Beckett, chief opposition spokesman on trade and industry.

Under Labour there will be "a great, united, national effort", she said. And that was all she said. The plan is devastatingly simple.

Mrs Beckett's announcement was received in some

thing close to shock at the audacity of the strategy. But of course like all strokes of genius, once explained, it seemed so obvious. Why had nobody thought of this before? For 15 years the Tories have been gassing on about deregulation, privatisation and the like, while "old" Labour has been advocating State control. Thrusting both aside, Mr Blair and his team have cut the Gordian knot.

Mrs Beckett was responding to Ian Lang, the Industry Secretary, in an exchange

about Britain's trade balance. How could this be improved? By a great, united, national effort, Mrs Beckett said. After this insight, it was a wonder anybody bothered to stay.

But we did. To hear James Pawsey (C, Rugby and Kenilworth) ask about an exotic new element in European thinking he called "the Seychelles chapter". Either they are even posher in Rugby and Kenilworth than we had imagined, or EU enlargement proceeds alarmingly.

As Pawsey spoke, Ian Lang

gazed round from the front bench in apparent rapture. Tory backbenchers, now is your hour! Terrified of further defections, government whips have ordered frontbenchers to sweet-talk even the sorest old lags behind them, though Pawsey does not look particularly sour.

David Congdon (C, Cray-

An astonished Sir Michael Garry (C, Surrey NW), who had chanced a mild observation or two to Richard Page, a junior minister, was greeted with the news that "I have always listened to you with reverence and affection". We do think this was going a bit far. The day Sir Michael abandoned the Party of Capitalism we may expect the Pope to denounce St Peter.

But ministers went further. Teresa Gorman rose (well, took off) with some familiar protests about Brussels direct-

ives, her drift being that these should just be ignored. "I do have a lot of sympathy," crooned another junior minister, Phillip Oppenheim, with that. I think my hon friend makes some fair points there."

Was this necessary? It is hard to imagine where Mrs Gorman could defect to, except Outer Space. When Nicholas Badger (C, Wolverhampton SW), who was being beastly as usual, heard Mr Oppenheim "reciprocate my hon friend's warm congratulations with the same

warmth" he must have wondered whether flattery could be pushed further. It was. Oppenheim congratulated him on his sporting credentials.

Only Michael Fabricant (C, Mid Staffordshire) missed the new mood. Thanking Ian Taylor for his answer, Fabricant told the minister he had found it "long, detailed and helpful". Poor child. He thinks backbenchers are still supposed to flatter ministers, rather than the other way round.

## Give all workers a stake in their firm, says Labour

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Labour leadership will today call on employers to allow all staff to own shares in their companies. It will pledge that a Labour Government will find ways of encouraging more firms to give shopfloor workers the same rights to shares as senior executives.

The party aims to remove administrative barriers to share option schemes and to sweep away the cultural obstacles to the idea of lower-paid workers being given the chance of owning a part of their firms.

Support for "shares for all" is the latest example of a dramatic shift in economic attitudes. Only a few years ago the prevailing party attitude to shares was one of suspicion.

Labour, which is taking advice from City experts and companies running share ownership schemes, will look at whether existing tax incentives are being used efficiently. But sources emphasise there is no "pot of gold" from which new tax concessions can suddenly be found.

The plans, to be heralded in a speech by Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, coincide with a regional tour by Tony Blair to sell his vision of the "stakeholder economy". They are seen by Mr Blair as an important and symbolic part of his stakeholder concept.

That concept came under further attack from the Tories yesterday after John Monks, general secretary of the TUC,



Darling: says plans do not need legislation

## Police predict £12m bypass protest bill

By TIM JONES

THE Chief Constable of Thames Valley said yesterday that the cost of policing the Newbury bypass protest over the next two years could reach £12 million and would affect police operations throughout the area. Charles Pollard has told David Maclean, a Home Office Minister, that, without extra government money, the force would face intolerable strains.

At a press conference Mr Pollard said: "Essentially, we are being asked to police from our force resources what is a national event. But there is a limit to the resources and manpower we have."

Mr Pollard added: "We estimate the additional burden for us over the two-year period could amount to £12 million, but that is maybe an underestimate. Police forces expect unusual events

to put a strain on their resources but Thames Valley and Hampshire are faced with the possibility of a conflict that could go on for more than two years, sucking in men and draining resources which otherwise would be used for normal policing."

Meanwhile, a huge increase in the number of security guards yesterday enabled contractors to complete their first full day's work since the battle of the Newbury bypass began ten days ago.

Protected by more than 300 guards and scores of police, the chain saws buzzed all day on two sites as dozens of trees were felled.

More than 30 people were arrested and some protesters, who had been arrested earlier in the week, said they were ignoring bail conditions by revisiting the site.

## Outcry over Maguire's cash award

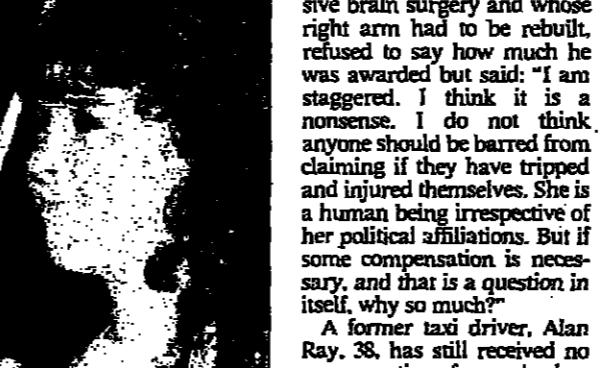
By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs and terrorist victims spoke out yesterday against a £13,500 compensation award to a convicted bomber, Donna Maguire, for injuring her ankle when she tripped on a pavement.

David Wilshire, Tory MP for Spelthorne, tabled a Commons motion calling on the Government to end the "unfairness" of current compensation schemes and to ensure that convicted terrorists could not "financially exploit the state they were seeking to destroy".

The motion added: "While the ankle damage made it impossible for the convicted terrorist to wear high-heeled shoes and to dance, it did not prevent her attempting to murder five soldiers or act as an IRA spy on military installations."

Last night he pointed out that the parents of a child murdered in the Warrington bomb blast had been awarded



Maguire won £13,500 for pavement trip

had received almost twice as much as their £7,500 compensation. Colin Parry said: "It is absolutely disgusting. It confirms my feeling that wrongdoers are better looked after than those who suffer the consequences."

Among the Baltic Exchange victims, ship broker Jeffrey

Blum, 42, who needed extensive brain surgery and whose right arm had to be rebuilt, refused to say how much he was awarded but said: "I am staggered. I think it is a nonsense. I do not think anyone should be barred from claiming if they have tripped and injured themselves. She is a human being irrespective of her political affiliations. But if some compensation is necessary, that is a question in itself, why so much?"

A former taxi driver, Alan Ray, 38, has still received no compensation for a broken hand and multiple wounds to his arms, neck and head. He was off work for 14 months.

Now a trainee train driver, he said: "I am disgusted. She complains she can't jog, but the IRA's victims can't dance or sing now."

Raymond Fayers, 47, a bank security guard, received £7,500 after his finger was left twisted by the City blast. He said: "What does it mean, she can't do a job any more?"

A rare sitting of the full Court of Appeal is to decide in March whether Rosemary West should be granted leave to appeal against her ten murder convictions. The Lord Chancellor's Department said the decision was made because of the high degree of public interest. Lawyers acting for West, who is serving her life terms at Durham jail, lodged her grounds for appeal last month.

## Sacked woman wins

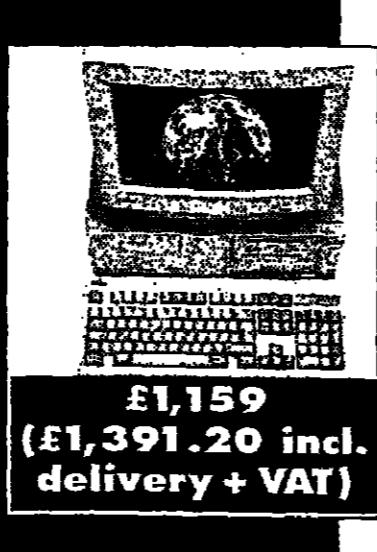
An accountant who was sacked after being diagnosed as having cancer while she was pregnant yesterday won her case for unfair dismissal. Richard Fulwell, Tee-Gee Snacks' finance director, told the tribunal that he was advised that Carole Coe, 30, of Hyde, Greater Manchester, had no right to return to work because she had been with the company for less than two years. Her award will be decided in March.

## Cider claim settled

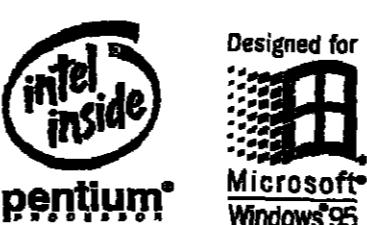
A mother of three who claims she suffered brain damage after drinking lead-polluted cider from a painted mug accepted £55,000 in an out-of-court settlement yesterday. Marian Bloom, 41, told the High Court the poisoning occurred during regular use of the mug at the Queen's Head in Stradbrooke, Suffolk. Landlord Frederick Farrow and his wife Mary denied liability.

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Prince Michael of Kent looks on as campaigner disrupts centenary commemoration in Coventry

## Anti-car protester strips at cathedral service

By ALAN HAMILTON  
AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A LATTER-DAY Lady Godiva bared her all in Coventry Cathedral yesterday in protest at a service to commemorate the centenary of the motor car. With Prince Michael of Kent and an array of dignitaries from the motor industry sitting a few feet away, the woman sprang from a side aisle and cast off her coat to expose a body daubed with anti-car slogans.

Before police and stewards rushed to cover her dignity, she shouted: 'In the spirit of Lady Godiva, I am here to mourn the death of my mother and the 17 million people killed directly by the motor car.'

The 5ft 10in protester declared herself to be Angel Koyant, but it was later discovered that she is Lucy Pearce, a dedicated anti-roads campaigner with a string of aliases.

Her hatred of cars stems from the death of her mother in a road accident in 1965. She now describes herself as a worshipper of Mother Earth, and lives with other 'eco-warriors' in an encampment beside the proposed A30 route near Exeter.

Ms Pearce, 35, said she had been born in Oxfordshire and educated in Bedfordshire before going to Exeter University, where she was known as Rose. She then ran an all-



John Petty, cathedral provost, invites protesters in

women theatre company known as Bearded Women before changing her name and becoming an activist in 1991.

She and her accomplice, Theo Simon, 38, were released after being questioned by police. Wearing a plastic police-issue suit, she said: 'I have written numerous letters to MPs and newspapers and it seemed that exposing my body was the only avenue left open to me.'

We had been in the Chapel of Industry at the cathedral and suddenly thought that we must do something.'

'I wanted to lock myself to the pulpit and Theo was there to help me do it. The aim was to stop the service. But some managed to get their hand between my neck and the lock. I still managed to say all I had

to say.' She had urged the congregation 'to remember the mothers left childless, the orphaned children, our brothers, sisters, fathers and friends. Those paralysed and maimed. The epidemic of asthmatic children.'

Ms Pearce added: 'I suppose my mother's death must have had something to do with me getting involved in this cause, but it is also because my sister's little boy suffers from asthma although they live in a suburban area and he is not even two yet. I believe his asthma is because of car fumes.'

Before the service 100 protesters had gathered outside, dressed as angels, bishops and pantomime horses. The provost, John Petty, invited some of them into the cathedral.

The Right Reverend Simon Barrington-Ward, Bishop of Coventry, defended the service which had been initiated by Coventry councillors. The proceedings began with an 1897 Daimler Autocar being driven up the aisle and ended with an electric Peugeot 106, also made in Coventry, gliding out of the West Door.

'I thought the disruption inside the cathedral was a pity, but you cannot stop demonstration; it is part of people's freedom. I am only sorry that they couldn't have done it with a little more dignity and restraint,' the Bishop said.

In a sermon on the parable of the two cars, he said that the Daimler represented the thanksgiving for all the benefits the car had bestowed, and the Peugeot man's penitence for the way it had been misused. Prince Michael gave a short reading.

Ms Pearce's friends at Allercombe camp in Devon said the woman they know as Angel Quercus — a shared tribal surname — had discussed a Coventry protest over a month ago. Scarlett Quercus said: 'She was making a point with nudity just as Lady Godiva did. We felt it was completely sick to celebrate a machine which has cost countless lives and sicker still to hold the service at the same cathedral where the funeral of Jill Phipps [the animal rights protester] was held.'



Lucy Pearce casts off her fake-fur coat in Coventry Cathedral to reveal slogans condemning the car

## Man is guilty of assault on vandals

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUSINESSMAN who grabbed two boys he suspected of breaking his greenhouse windows was found guilty of assault yesterday.

David Verney, 54, heard the sound of breaking glass as he was hoing a rosebed and jumped into his Range Rover to give chase from his moated home in Uckington, Gloucestershire.

Justice in Coleford were told that Mr Verney, a former Army and County rugby player, drove two miles to lie in wait behind a bush for the boys.

One of the pair, from a council estate four miles away, claimed he was grabbed and hit in the neck three times and bundled into the Range Rover. The other said Verney punched him on the jaw.

Verney, who rejected an offer of a caution or a bind over, denied being in a temper but admitted that possibly he 'did not behave very well'.

The businessman, whose wife is a JP, denied common assault and criminally damaging a shirt belonging to one of the boys. He was convicted of assaulting Wayne O'Shea, 14, but cleared of the allegation against Craig Walsh, 13. He was ordered to pay costs of £200 and £40 compensation for the shirt.

After the case, Verney said: 'I am bitterly disappointed by the outcome. My solicitor has asked me to think it over for 24 hours but my immediate reaction is to pursue it to the highest possible level regardless of cost.'

'These two pieces of glass have already cost me £1,600.' He said he had taken a close interest in similar cases. 'I can only conclude that the view taken by the magistrates in my case is not in the public interest.'

## Doctor jailed for manslaughter can resume practice

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DOCTOR jailed after stabbing her husband's mistress to death was yesterday given permission to resume her career when she leaves prison, subject to undergoing retraining. Julia Wright, 48, a mother of four, stabbed Fiona Wood 17 times in the face and chest with a kitchen knife before slashing her face another 18 times.

Wright flew into an uncontrollable rage after discovering that Mrs Wood, who was married with two children, was having an affair with her husband, Jeremy, also a doctor. She was a woman who had loved 'not wisely but well', the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee was told.

Wright was sentenced in December 1994 to four years' imprisonment after she pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. She bowed her head as Paul Honigmann, for the GMC, said: 'This is a tale of a woman who loved her husband and her children. When she thought she was going to lose both, she was driven

towards the edge of endurance.' After the killing Wright, covered in blood, drove to the Nuffield hospital where her husband was working and confessed. Wright later told police: 'I hit her, then I hit her, then I hit her, that evil and wicked woman.'

Simon Taylor, QC, for Wright, said: 'She feels considerable remorse and is very sad that her actions have led to disrepute for her profession.'

You may take the view we cannot have convicted killers on the register. But she recognises in due course she will have to provide for herself financially.'

'You must consider she has been assessed by psychiatrists and found to be of no further danger to the public, including her husband and his girlfriend. The public is sophisticated. It understands the notion of people committing crimes when they are ill.'

Wright, formerly from Woking, Surrey, has not practised medicine for 16 years, having given it up to raise her children, now aged 16, 14, 10 and 8. But she was anxious to be allowed to resume her career when she comes out of prison, possibly later this year.

Sir Donald Irvine, chairman of the committee, told her: 'Your registration will be suspended for a period of 12 months. Should you consider a return to medical practice you should use your time to prepare a programme of rehabilitation and retraining.'

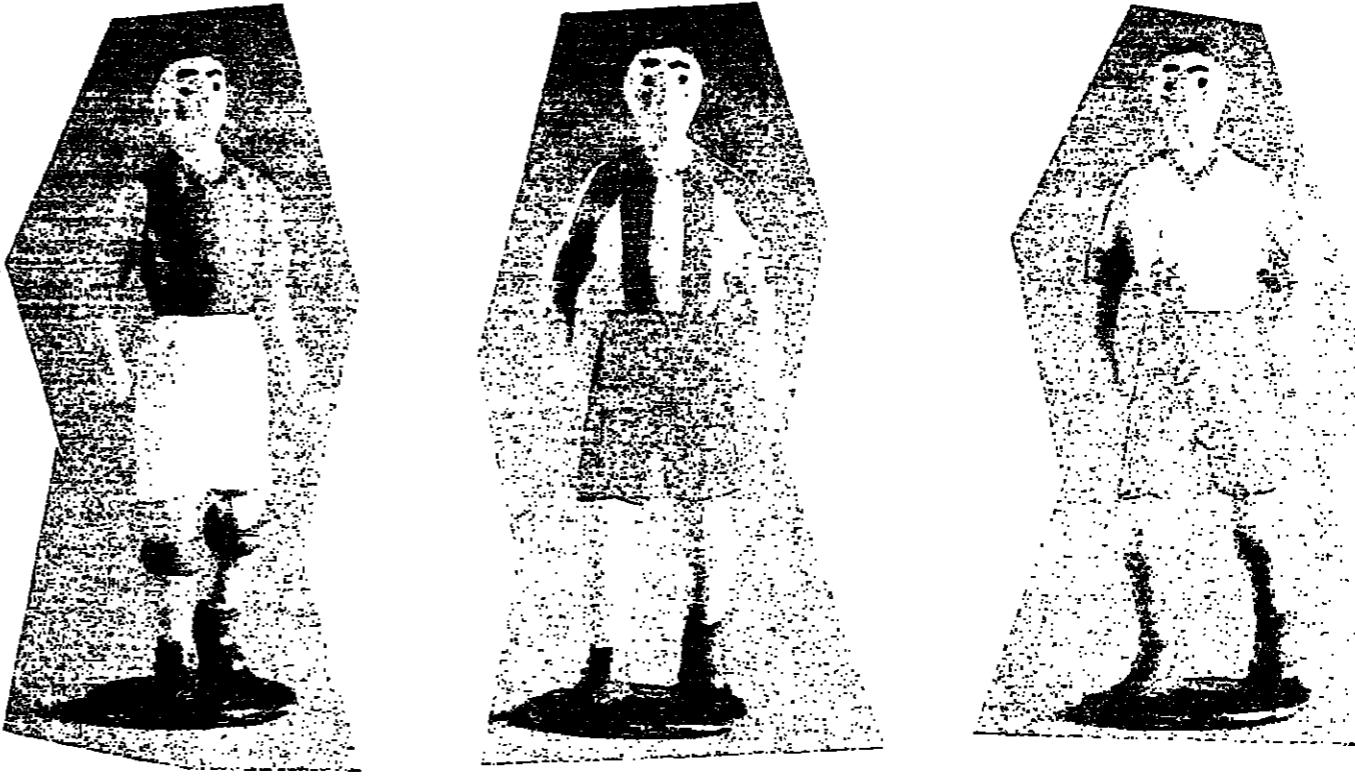
Sir Donald said that she would have to return to the committee in due course to show what steps she had taken towards the implementation of its recommendations.

Wright killed Mrs Wood in May 1994 after spotting her wearing what she called a triumphant expression when she was with her husband.

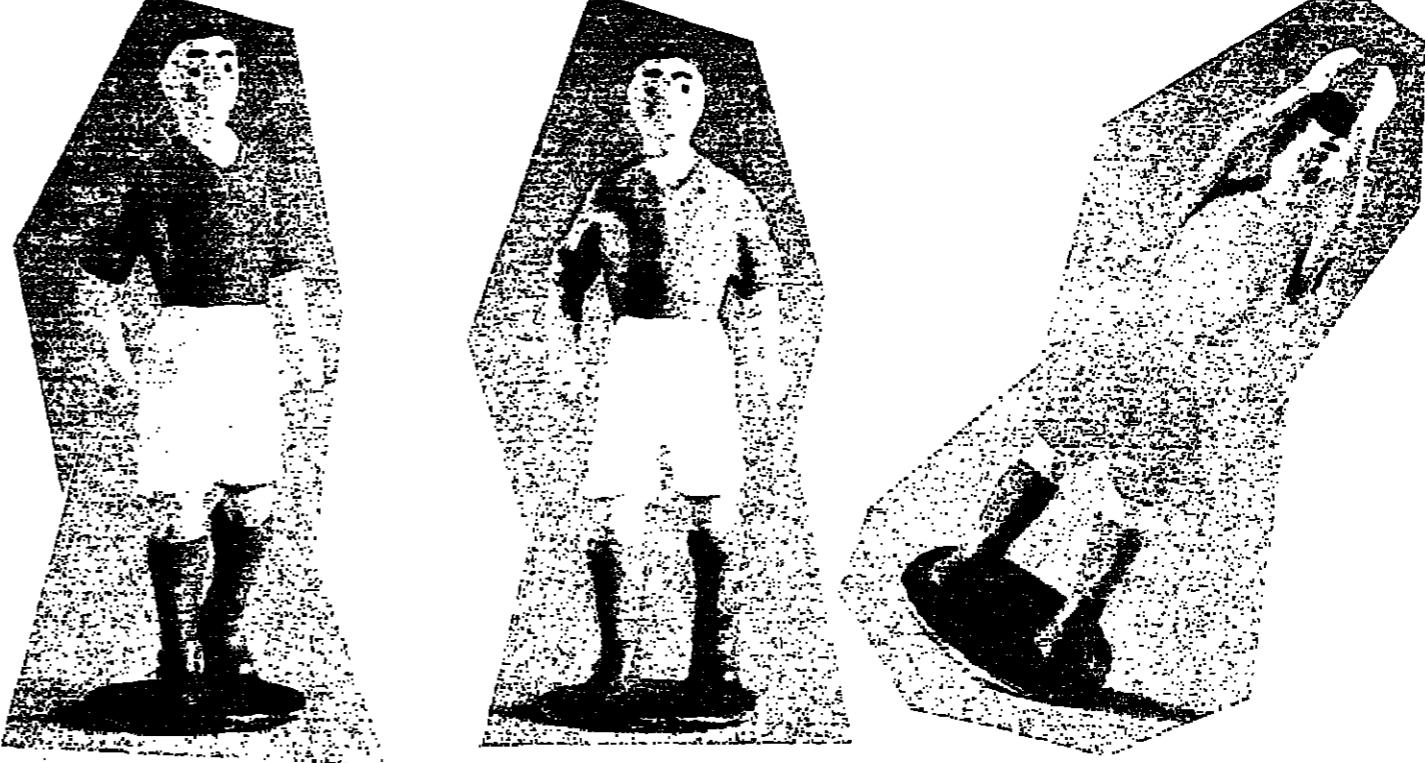


Wright stabbed her husband's mistress

With all these national players



wanting your electricity business



you'd better get on to one that saves

<input type="checkbox"/> I want the most competitive price	<input type="checkbox"/> I want a named account manager
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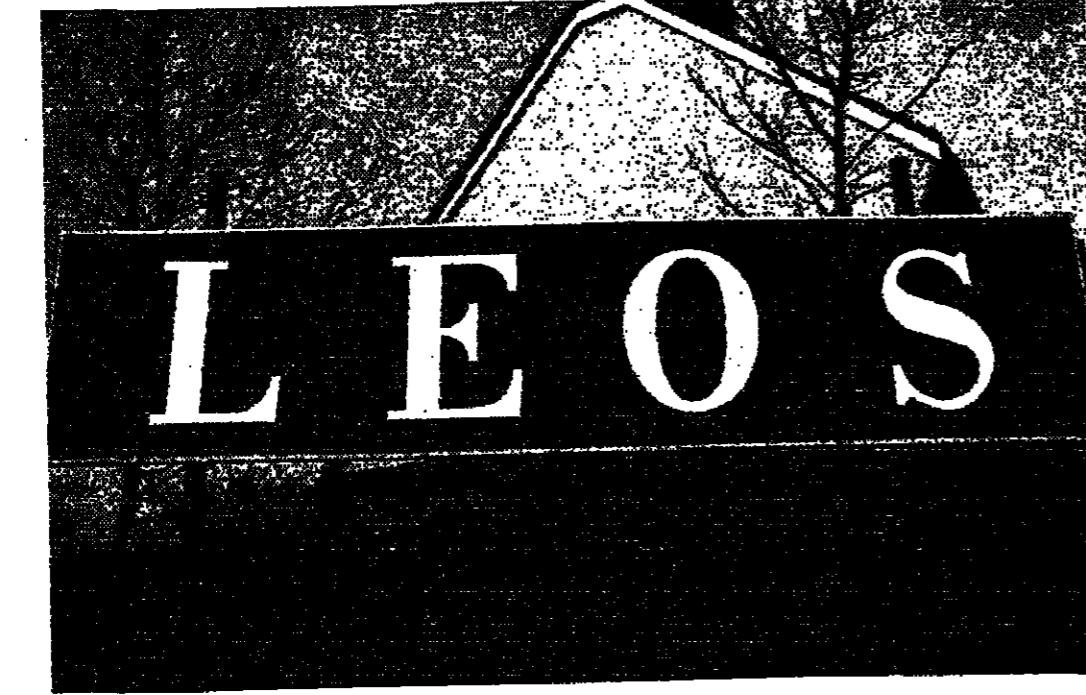
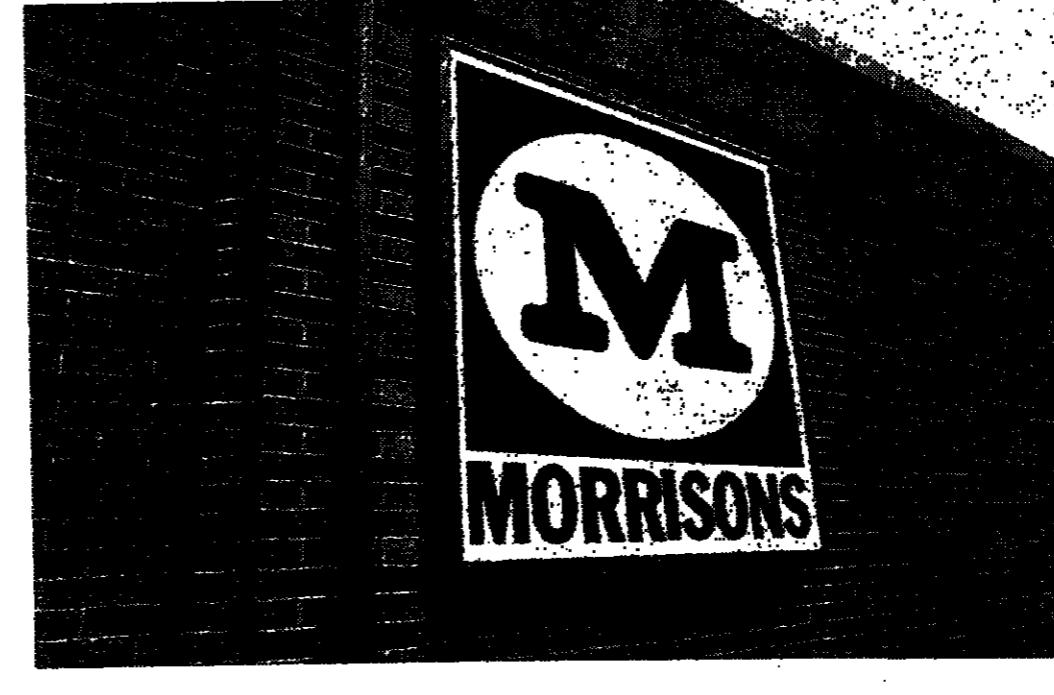
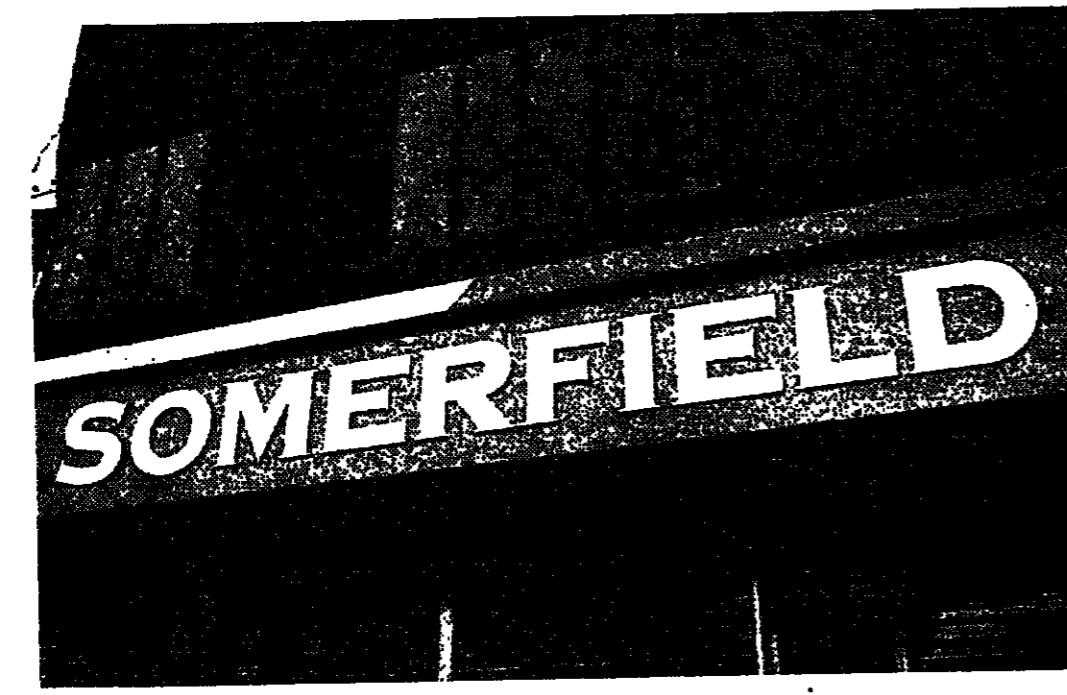
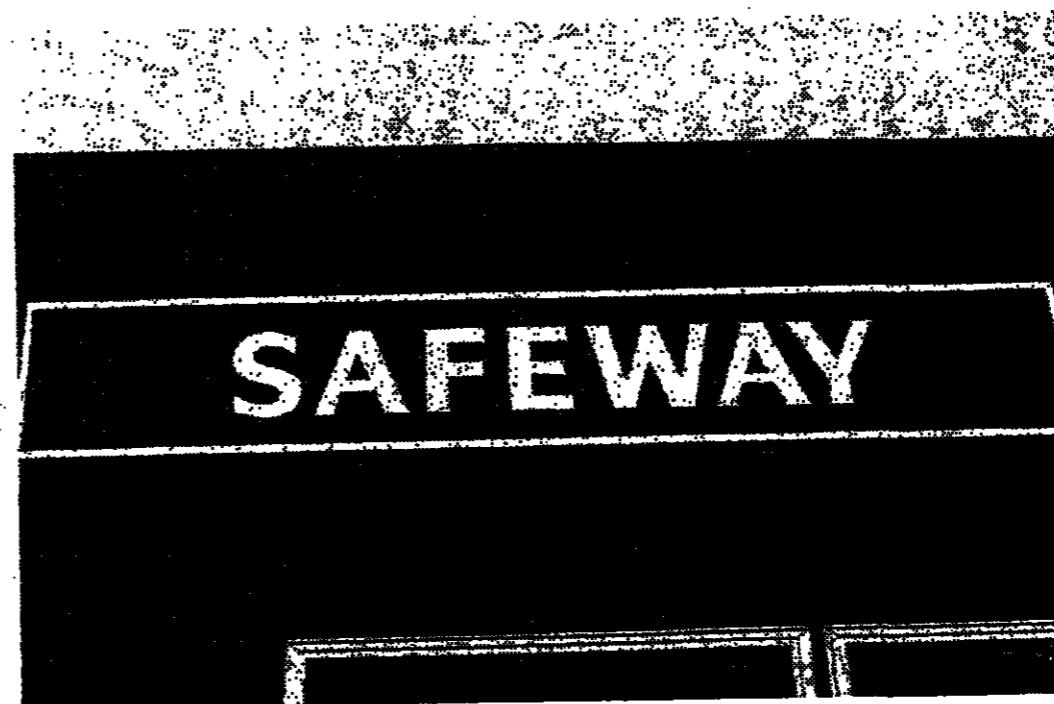
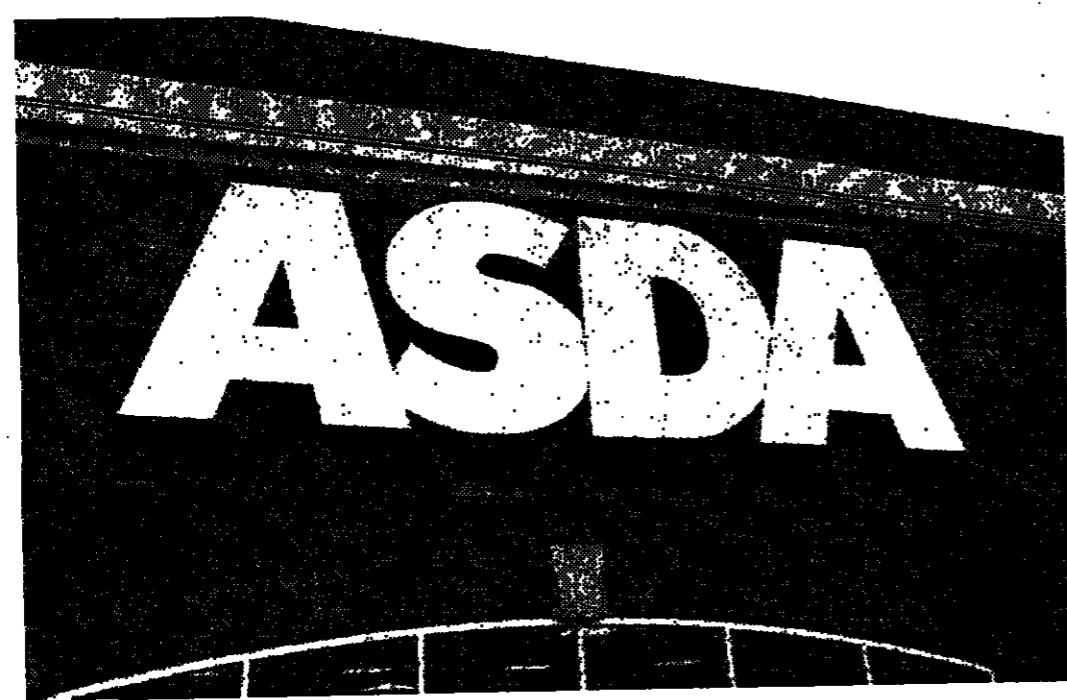
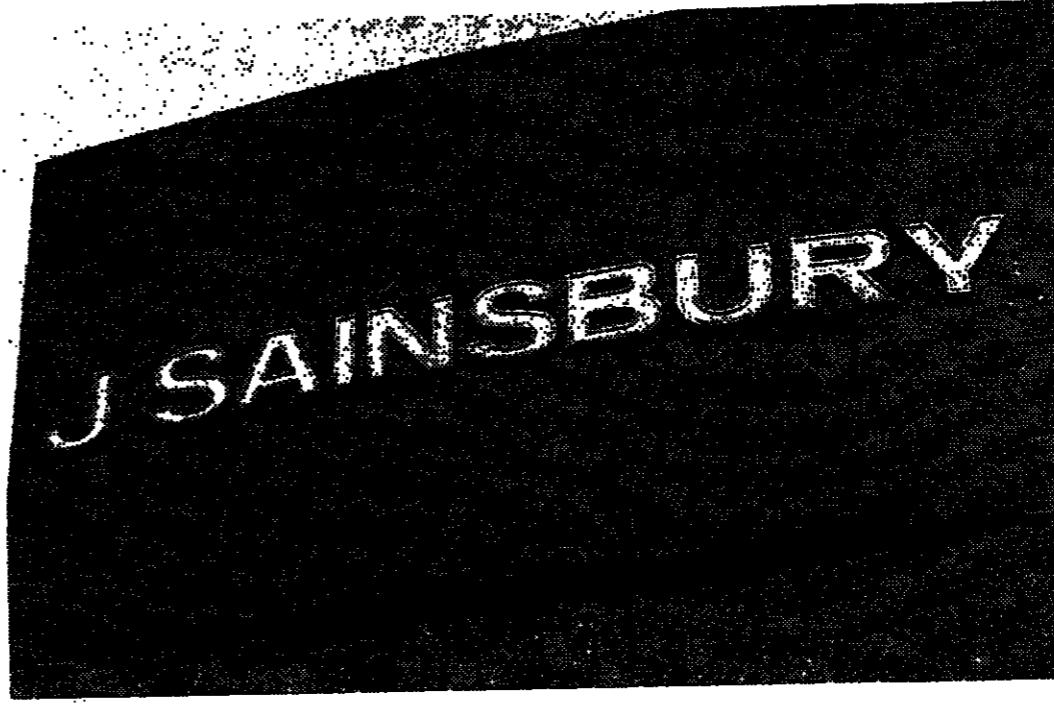
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BRITISH  
MEAT

Beef

Virgin contends rules were broken when Channel 5 television licence was awarded

## Remark at party may delay new TV channel

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN OFF-THE-CUFF remark made at a children's party by the television executive Greg Dyke to a rival bidder for the Channel 5 television licence could scupper the launch of Britain's fifth terrestrial channel.

Virgin Television, part of Richard Branson's entertainment empire, yesterday launched a legal challenge in the High Court against the Independent Television Commission's decision last October to award the fifth channel licence to Channel 5 Broadcasting (CSB), a consortium led by Mr Dyke and Lord Hollick, the socialist millionaire.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, acting for Virgin Television, told Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Turner that Virgin — whose licence application was turned down on quality grounds — became suspicious about the way the licence was being awarded when Jeremy Fox, one of its executives, bumped into Mr Dyke at a children's party at Alexandra Palace in north London.

The event was held five months after the deadline for submitting Channel 5 bids. "He [Mr Fox] was told by Mr Dyke that they had funded their application up to £200 million and had to put in

further £100 million," Mr Scrivener said.

Lord Justice Henry pointed out that it was a "disputed conversation", but Mr Scrivener explained that he mentioned it to indicate what had started Virgin's challenge.

Virgin, whose £22,000,000 cash bid for the licence was identical to CSB's, alleges that letters from the commission to CSB asking for "clarification" of its bid prompted CSB to add £100 million to its business plan. Mr Scrivener submitted documents to show that the commission allowed CSB to sign a new shareholders' agreement to this effect more than four months after the application was submitted.

Mr Scrivener said that this was "contrary to the rules", which state that the applicant "can only enhance his application after it has been submitted if there is a material change affecting the applicant [such as a change in its corporate structure] and then only if the ITC decides such change is not unfair to other applicants".

Mr Scrivener also challenged the commission's decision that Virgin's programme proposals did not pass its quality threshold. He told the court that on October 19 last year, commission members met to consider papers prepared by staff which recommended that Virgin pass the quality test. The members met again on October 25 when there were no fresh papers to consider and held that Virgin had failed the quality threshold. Mr Scrivener said: "Virgin claim this decision was legally unreasonable."

The two other unsuccessful bidding consortia, New Century Television and UKTV, were both refused permission to bring their own applications for judicial review against the commission, but yesterday sought to make submissions at Virgin's case.

The case continues today.

## Survey finds third of Surrey women abused

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MIDDLE-CLASS women are as likely to be victims of domestic violence as those from the working class, according to a survey published yesterday.

A third of 434 women questioned in Surrey, the county with the highest divorce rate, had been attacked in their homes. Almost a quarter had been beaten up, 9 per cent had had their lives threatened and 5 per cent had been attacked with a weapon.

Nicola Donny, research assistant at the Roehampton Institute which conducted the

study with Surrey County Council, said: "Surrey is a largely middle-class area and this study proves that domestic violence affects all classes and ethnic groups."

The study found that in addition to the physical injuries, domestic violence caused 16 per cent of women to live in constant fear, 6 per cent were suicidal and 7 per cent suffered depression.

Almost two thirds of the victims had not sought help because they were afraid, ashamed or considered it a private matter.

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**BNFL DIRECT**



Richard Branson donned Moroccan dress yesterday to publicise his attempt to fly round the world in a balloon

**Branson set for 'my best adventure'**

BY OLIVER AUGUST

RICHARD BRANSON arrived in Marrakesh yesterday and declared his attempt to fly round the world by balloon would be "the most fantastic adventure I have ever embarked on".

The Virgin chairman joked about the training he and his two fellow balloonists still have to complete: "There is no other exhibition on earth that's ever taken off with people who have had to train for desert landings, arctic landings, jungle landings and sea landings."

Before leaving Britain he sent a good luck card to Henk Brink, his Dutch challenger. Mr Branson said: "I sent him a telegram wishing him all the best and telling him whoever wins has to pay for the drinks and the party to celebrate."

The heated and pressurised Virgin *Global Challenger* capsule is being assembled and tested in a Marrakesh military base before being taken to the launch site in the Atlas mountains by the Moroccan Army later this week.

**SATURDAY IN THE TIMES**



**Britain's film star**

Robert Crampton meets Andrew Macdonald, movie hit man, in the **Magazine**

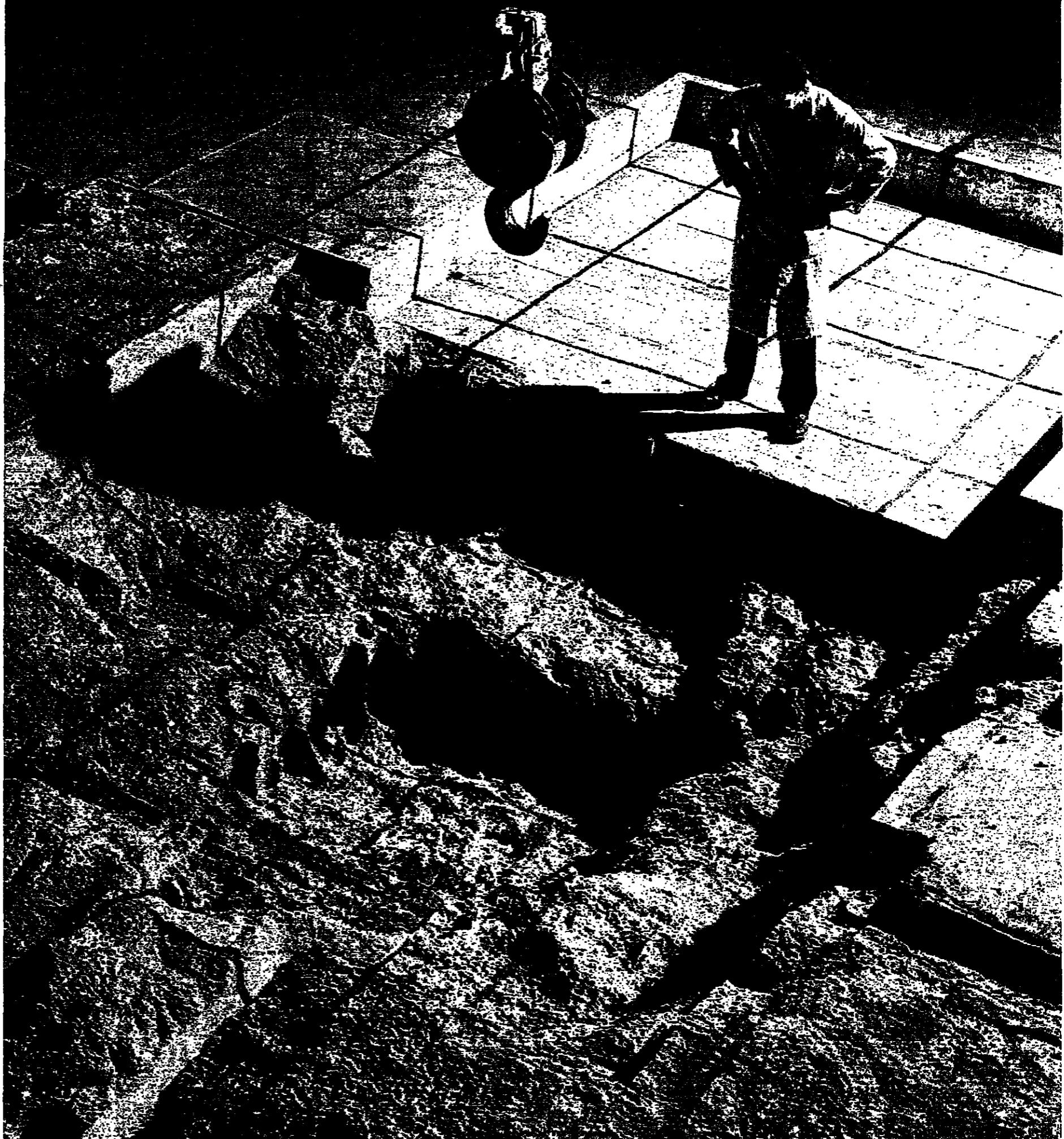
**Have teenager, will travel**

How to have fun on a family holiday, in **Weekend**

**PLUS**

**Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide**

## ONE OF BRITAIN'S NUCLEAR REACTORS HAS JUST VANISHED.



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Even the building has been dismantled and the two acre site will soon be available for commercial or industrial development.

BNFL is currently involved in many decommissioning projects around the world.

involving reactors, fuel production plants, reprocessing plants, storage ponds and silos, and the recovery of radioactive materials for safe storage.

These facilities - very different from one another - all need to be decommissioned safely, just as the Universities' Reactor has been. Decommissioning this reactor was something some people might think couldn't be done. The people who did it are BNFL. To find out more about what we do and

how we do it, please come and see us at the Sellafield Visitors Centre in Cumbria.

Or if you would like to receive further information, please write to Corporate Communications, BNFL, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS.

**BNFL**  
Where science never sleeps

Organisers challenge politicians over threats of wider curbs on satellite coverage

## Call for £5 sports levy on BBC licence fee

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
AND JOHN GOODRIDGE

A FORMER Tory sports minister called yesterday for a £5 "sports levy" to be added to the TV licence fee to counter the growing competition from satellite broadcasters in covering top events.

Speaking at a London conference on the future of televised sport, Robert Atkins suggested that the levy, which would raise an additional £100 million a year, could create a new sports channel, jointly owned by the BBC and ITV, expanding their sports coverage.

The plan received a mixed response at the conference attended by more than 150 broadcasters, sports administrators and MPs. The event, organised by the national governing bodies of football, basketball, cricket, rugby union and by British Sky Broadcasting, was characterised by a series of clashes and debate was often heated.

Labour and Conservative MPs used the platform to accuse senior sports administrators of being swayed by financial greed in selling television rights to the satellite network BSkyB, partly owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. They demanded that eight listed sports events should be protected for coverage only by the BBC and ITV.

Leading figures in sport countered that it was insulting to suggest that the sports



BSkyB filming the England rugby team in training yesterday: Mr Atkins said that a levy could create a sports channel to be operated jointly by BBC and ITV

bodies should not be allowed to decide whether events should be covered by terrestrial or satellite stations. Sports bodies are united in opposing any extension to the eight listed events which currently cannot be shown on a pay-per-view basis, although they can be on a subscription channel such as BSkyB.

The listed events, which were reduced to eight by the

Government in 1991, are the Olympics, the Derby, the Grand National, Wimbledon finals, Test matches in England, the football World Cup finals, the FA Cup and Scottish Cup finals. Some MPs want to extend the list to include events such as the Five Nations rugby union championship and the Ryder Cup and the Open Championship in golf. Nick Hawkins, chair-

man of the Tory backbench sports committee, said: "We have to make sure we represent all electors."

Trevor Phillips, commercial director of the Football Association, which has recently sold the rights for the FA Cup for £12 million to a combination of ITV and Sky, said that during the 1980s the two terrestrial channels "operated as a cartel." Terry Blake, the

marketing manager of the Test and County Cricket Board, said: "Since 1994, we have doubled our exposure to 6,000 hours of cricket on television and trebled our income."

That money had been used to help to develop the grass roots of the game, he said.

David Elstein, the head of programming for BSkyB, said: "The list of restricted

events is an anachronism. The amount of sport on British television since Sky Sports was launched in April 1991 has quadrupled. Sky is now showing more than 9,000 hours every year — but only about 1 per cent of that has been transferred from terrestrial channels."

Last night the Department of National Heritage said Mr Atkins's levy plan would pose "all sorts of practical difficulties". John Major said this month that curbs on satellite screening were being considered.

Will Wyatt, the managing director of BBC Television, who was not among the delegates at the conference, said yesterday: "Events of national significance should be available to everyone. They are part of our heritage."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Dead man lay in flat for nine months

The body of a 75-year-old man lay undiscovered in his flat for nine months while council officers continued to send out rent arrears and eviction notices. An inquest was held yesterday. Bailiffs found the remains of Arthur Bland in Maida Vale, west London, in September 1994.

Westminster City Council has subsequently ordered full inquiries to be made six weeks after a tenant's first arrears. Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, recorded an open verdict.

## Student's body is found at Oxford

The parents of a student found dead at Magdalen College, Oxford, were last night travelling from their home in Berlin. Lars Day, 20, reading politics, philosophy and economics, was president of the junior common room. He was found with a plastic bag over his head.

## Body identified

The body of a woman found in woodland near Fareham, Hampshire, was that of Janet Cooper, 58, who went missing on November 26. Police said there appeared to be no suspicious circumstances.

## Bus death

Beryl Hunt, 55, died from head injuries after falling in the aisle of a bus that braked suddenly to avoid a dog. An inquest at Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was told. Verdict: accidental death.

## Father missing

A Railtrack executive who disappeared after leaving home to visit London by train more than a week ago is still missing. Peter Monaghan, 48, of Solihull, West Midlands, is married with four children.

## Cannabis arrests

Three people were arrested when about 450 cannabis plants worth an estimated £100,000 were seized in a raid on a "drugs factory" in Highbridge, Somerset.

## Waste of time

A lifeboat sent to the aid of what was reported to be a dinghy on fire a mile off Walton on the Naze, Essex, found a bright orange wheelie bin ablaze.

## Piped music

Sir Colin Davis, principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, has been elected the 32nd Pipersmoker of the Year by The Pipersmokers' Council.

### OBITUARY

Finchley Children's Music Group (photograph, January 15) is trained by a group of professional musicians, not by volunteers.

## Four convicted of Scream theft

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FOUR Norwegians were convicted yesterday of the theft of *The Scream* by Edvard Munch, stolen from the Oslo National Museum in 1994 and recovered with the help of Scotland Yard's art and antiques squad.

At the end of a three-month trial, the suspected mastermind Pal Enger, 28, a footballer, was sentenced by the Oslo City Court to six years and three months in prison. The four were also convicted of attempting to sell stolen property. William Asheim, 20, and Bjorn Grytdal, 28, were sentenced to four years and nine months in prison, and Jan Olsen, 50, was given two years and eight months for charges that included attempting to sell stolen property.

In the theft of *The Scream*, valued at £40 million, two thieves climbed a ladder, broke a window and made off with the painting in 50 seconds. They left a postcard saying: "Thanks for the poor security." In an undercover operation, two British officers posed as a representative of an art foundation wanting to buy the painting and a minder protecting both the buyer and his money.

They called themselves "Chuck" and "Sid" and agreed

to buy the painting for about \$500,000 (£325,000).

A meeting was set up in the car park of a motorway rest area, "Sid" and two of the thieves remained in a hotel room with the money, awaiting a phone call from "Chuck" telling him to hand over the money once he had seen the painting. "Chuck" did just that, but he also called Detective Chief Inspector John Butler, head of the arts and antiques squad at the time. Norwegian police made the necessary arrests.

Next Tuesday, BBC1 will screen an *Omnibus* programme on the case in which Enger protests his innocence.



*The Scream* by Edvard Munch, valued at £40m

## Parish sees red over Orange

A VICAR has upset parishioners and Christian groups by approving the use of his church as an aerial for a mobile telephone company. They say they are appalled by the prospect of mobile phone users, who include drug dealers and criminals, sending their calls via a House of God.

The Rev David Wills said that if the plan for Mossley Hill parish church in Liverpool to be used by Orange was anything other than morally responsible, he would not contemplate being part of it, and above their heads he said "normal phones were used for drug deals".

In November, Mr Wills refused to allow a British Legion Remembrance Day parade to finish at the church.

He would not allow "outside groups to determine what happens in the House of God".

Maureen Brindle, 52, a member of that local British Legion, said of the aerial: "It goes against everything he has

said in the past about outside groups using the church. This is so hypocritical. Folk will be

praying to God in the church

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Airline tickets and £4,000 phone bills helped to push the Duchess of York into debt

## Taste for overseas trips dissipates royal bank balance

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Duchess of York's penchant for exotic foreign trips has earned her a reputation for profligacy and proved a big drain on her finances. Only the best hotel rooms in the smartest resorts will do for the Duchess, who is known to rely on the generosity of friends and contacts to finance some of her trips.

Her most recent foreign holiday was to Australia, where she visited her sister Jane Ladecke in Sydney and then flew on to Melbourne to watch Thomas Muster, an acclaimed tennis player, at a practice session.

The Duchess decided to divert to Melbourne on the spur of the moment two weeks ago when she met Mr Muster at a party during a charity trip to Qatar. She flew from the Gulf to Australia at her own expense, was given a courtesy upgrade to first class, and stayed in a five-star hotel. She returned home last week.

Although other members of the Royal Family enjoy frequent stints away from their offices, sketching holidays in Scotland attract little press interest.

The Duchess's timing can be unfortunate: when her complaints that she was hard

up were published in *Hello!* last summer, the Duchess was on holiday in Bermuda with her daughters. It later emerged that the holiday was funded by Robert Stigwood, a musical impresario, who is a good friend.

The Duchess's epic break in Thailand and Indonesia after her separation from the Duke of York in 1992 is estimated to have run to six figures. She then flew on to Australia.

Between the summers of 1993 and 1994, the Duchess enjoyed six holidays, including a stint trekking on the lower slopes of Everest. That trip was partly paid for by a charity and is estimated to have cost £10,000.

The Duchess took five trips over the following 12 months including a visit to Kenya. She usually takes two skiing holidays each year, to Verbier and Klosters. But so far this year she has been absent from the slopes, reportedly to cut down spending.

In June last year, the Duchess visited Los Angeles and stayed at one of the city's most expensive hotels, the Bel Air, where rooms start at £200 with suites costing £1,800 a night.

The Duchess's shopping

prowess is legendary: on a recent trip to New York she is said to have spent £3,000 on 20 pairs of shoes during a half-hour shopping spree. She flew to America on Concorde, which costs £5,000 for a return fare.

While she has claimed to be cutting back on unnecessary expenses, the Duchess spent £10,000 on clothes in one month last year. She chose outfits from Isabell Kristensen, a Danish designer, handbags by Anya Hindmarch and shoes from Jimmy Choo. Hindmarch bags cost between £250 and £400 and Choo's shoes about £200.

The Duchess's generosity is another cause of financial problems. When she moved into Kingsbourne, an eight-bedroomed Victorian house in Wentworth, Surrey, last year, she threw a champagne party for 150 people. The celebrations, which cost some £3,000, were designed to thank the decorators, removal men, builders and estate agents who had helped her to move from Romsey Lodge.

The house was completely redecorated before the Duchess moved in and the rent is an estimated £6,000 a month.

The Duchess employs a butler, driver, cook, nanny, housekeeper, dresser and a staff of three assistants in her private office. The wages bill is said to be about £32,000 a month.

Her hair is cut by Nicky Clarke, who charges £180 a session. The Duchess is, however, visiting him less frequently as an economy measure.

Membership of the Wentworth Club, her gym, and paying for personal sessions with her fitness trainer, are estimated to cost about £3,000 a year.

One of her most extravagant expenses is the telephone — a characteristic she shares with her sister-in-law, the Princess of Wales. The quarterly bill is said to be £4,000.

materialised, partly because of an unfavourable business contract according to a recent interview with the Duchess in *Hello!* That magazine is another lucrative source of income for the Duchess, who

has appeared ten times in photographic features.

It has been forecast that

Sleepy Kids, the company

which owns the worldwide

TV

and merchandising rights for *Budgie*, would earn about £800,000 from television and merchandising in the United States this year. The Duchess is unlikely to receive a share of more than 20 per cent, which would bring her an income this year of £160,000.

The longer-term future may

be brighter. Sleepy Kids said

it was "not outrageous" to talk of earnings of £300 million from sales in the United States over five years after a contract was signed last July to screen the *Budgie* adventures on American television.

The Duchess promoted

*Budgie* products at Bloomingdale's department store in

New York during the lucrative Christmas shopping period.

On her separation from the Duke, the Duchess received an estimated £2 million settlement but most of the sum is in trust for their daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie.

The Duke, whose civil list

payment of £249,000 is re-

fund

to the Treasury by the Queen, earns £30,544 as a Lieutenant-Commander in the Royal Navy. Eighty per cent of his civil list income goes on staff costs, but he is said to contribute handsomely towards the costs of his children.

An estimated £10,000 a year

is spent on the daughters' education and £15,000 a year is contributed towards the £72,000 cost of the Duchess's

rented home in Wentworth, Surrey.

The Duchess hopes to make

more

money from two books on Queen Victoria, *Travels with Queen Victoria* (1991) and *Victoria and Albert: Life at Osborne House* (1993). A film on the life of the young Queen Victoria is planned by 20th Century Fox.

Other financial plans include a deal with Banham Doubleday Dell in New York to write two children's books about a girl called Amanda who travels around the world.

The Duchess is negotiating with Tri-Star pictures for an option on her story *Heather Blaze*, the adventures of two mares with parallel but very different lives.

Elizabeth's Story, page 15

Diary, page 16



Work and play: the Duchess promoting *Budgie* in New York, and in Klosters, a trip that she has forgone this year, reportedly to cut costs

## Still waiting for riches from book deals

By EMMA WILKINS  
AND JON ASHWORTH



THE financial affairs of the Duchess of York have fascinated the public and the press since her close relationship with her adviser was disclosed four years ago. It was Bryan, the American business consultant, who helped the Duchess negotiate deals in the early 1990s that were meant to secure her financial future.

Mr Bryan no longer figures in the Duchess's personal affairs. The Duchess, who gave up her publishing job when she married the Duke of York in 1986, hoped that she would make millions from her books about *Budgie the Little Helicopter* after her separation in 1992. But the expected royalties have not

materialised, partly because of an unfavourable business contract according to a recent interview with the Duchess in *Hello!* That magazine is another lucrative source of income for the Duchess, who

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payment of £249,000 is re-

fund

to the Treasury by the Queen, earns £30,544 as a Lieutenant-Commander in the Royal Navy. Eighty per cent of his civil list income goes on staff costs, but he is said to contribute handsomely towards the costs of his children.

An estimated £10,000 a year

is spent on the daughters' education and £15,000 a year is contributed towards the £72,000 cost of the Duchess's

rented home in Wentworth, Surrey.

The Duchess hopes to make

more

money from two books on Queen Victoria, *Travels with Queen Victoria* (1991) and *Victoria and Albert: Life at Osborne House* (1993). A film on the life of the young Queen Victoria is planned by 20th Century Fox.

Other financial plans include a deal with Banham Doubleday Dell in New York to write two children's books about a girl called Amanda who travels around the world.

The Duchess is negotiating with Tri-Star pictures for an option on her story *Heather Blaze*, the adventures of two mares with parallel but very different lives.

Elizabeth's Story, page 15

Diary, page 16

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Chancellor attacks expansion

# Drop in university applicants reverses decade of growth

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DEMAND for university places has fallen for the first time since the Government launched its massive expansion of higher education ten years ago.

The number of applications is down by almost 5,000 this year in spite of an increase in the number of 18-year-olds. The fall, and the rising number of drop-outs reported this week by vice-chancellors, is expected to make it easier for candidates to gain a university place this autumn.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) said 349,941 people had applied for places by January 12, 1.5 per cent down on last year.

The figures emerged as the chancellor of a leading technological university condemned the higher-education expansion strategy. Sir John Mason, of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, said: "The decision to greatly expand higher education before attending to the schools was like adding an extra storey to a house with crumbling foundations. It makes no sense."

Since the war, schools have been used as a political football rather than in their proper role of implanting the discipline, knowledge and skills required by our workforce."

Teenagers were leaving school "illiterate, innumerate, inarticulate and incapable of earning a living" because of

government spending cuts, Sir John said in his last public address before retiring as chancellor.

He was against lowering university entrance standards, however. He said that in demanding subjects such as mathematics, physics and chemistry the number of well-qualified applicants so far that "large and famous departments that formerly demanded three As at advanced level are now glad to accept 2 Bs and a C" and offer remedial teaching in mathematics.

"If our standards are allowed to fall, the rapidly developing countries will cease to send their students here for training. This could have serious consequences not only for the reputation and finances of our universities but for investment in Britain as a whole."

Jess Enderby, of Ucas, said: "I do not think there will be any problem for appropriately qualified applicants to get into university this year. However, the popular universities and courses will always be more difficult to get into."

Mr Enderby added: "There are still a lot of students being influenced by the financial hardship factor and possibly that, combined with the improving job situation, is keeping more people away."

Figures suggest demand for higher education may have reached a plateau. There were 402,978 applicants in 1994, the year of merged polytechnic and university application bodies, and 408,991 last year. Applications to the Universities' Central Council on Admissions rose steadily from 1987 to 1993 after a fall of nearly 3,000 in 1986.

Ucas has yet to analyse this year's figures but there are signs that some of the biggest rises in applications have been at colleges of higher education rather than at new universities.

A total of 290,596 students gained a place at university last year, bringing the total full-time student population to more than a million, 50 per cent higher than in 1989.

Further growth is officially on hold while Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, conducts a review of the future of higher education.



Popular universities will still be oversubscribed

## Audit Office gives warning of nursery voucher fraud

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SECURITY measures are being brought in to combat fears of a black market in nursery school vouchers. An Audit Commission report due out next month will caution against the dangers of fraud in the four pilot areas where the scheme is being run from Easter, before going national next year.

Vouchers worth £1,100 are due to be delivered next month and, from April, parents of four-year-olds in the London boroughs of Wandsworth, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea, and in Norfolk, will be entitled to exchange them for education at approved nurseries. The Audit

Commission yesterday confirmed its caution about a potential black market in vouchers, to be reported to BBC2 in *First Sight* in the South East.

The Department for Education and Employment said measures were already planned.

Applications would be checked against child benefit records, to ensure they only went to parents with children of the right age. Parents would be required to provide proof of identity if their address differed from that on records.

Each voucher would bear the child's name and a serial number. Capita Management Services, which was running

the scheme, would check when each voucher was redeemed that the name and serial number matched its records. Vouchers would contain security features, like bank notes, to guard against counterfeiting.

Ministers have already acknowledged that the scheme may run into difficulties because of a lack of nurseries. Robin Squire, an Education Minister, has admitted that some parents may find there are not enough nursery places

— private, voluntary or local authority — to meet their new entitlement. The Government is confident any shortage will be overcome by fresh supply.



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Hannah Goring of Bonhams holds the Hercules, with Venus, left, and a Eurydice, right. Below, a rare picture of Miss Adams in younger days

## Charity sale for recluse's £3m hoard

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ART treasures worth an estimated £3 million are to be auctioned for charity on behalf of a mysterious recluse. The auctioneer, Bonhams, says that hardly anything is known about Sylvia Phillips Adams, aged 88, who spent her life building up the collection.

It is known that she worked for London art dealers during the late 1920s and 1930s, and eventually set up her own

business, buying at all the top London auction houses. She never married, became a recluse about 20 years ago and is now confined to a nursing home by Alzheimer's disease. Following her wishes that the collection was to be left to charity, her doctor has joined her accountant and lawyer in founding a trust that will benefit various causes, including the poor and children.

The 800 works of art include 300 Renaissance plaques, and a number of rare Renaissance bronzes. There is a

1500s image of Hercules attributed to Antico, the court sculptor to the Gonzagas of Mantua, and a 1690s Venus and Cupid by Hubert Gerhard, court sculptor of Munich. The Antico sculpture alone is expected to fetch more than £1 million, but such is his rarity on the market that a value is virtually impossible to set.

Little is known about the owner's family background. Bonhams believes that Miss Adams came from a "well-to-do family", as her father appears to have worked only as a lay preacher.



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# EU sacks British official for single currency attack

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN STRASBOURG

**BERNARD CONNOLLY**, the British European Union official, who wrote a book attacking monetary union last year, was sacked yesterday by the Commission in Brussels for publishing without permission and damaging the interests of the EU.

The Commission notified Mr Connolly of the unprecedented decision by the five-member disciplinary council which heard the charges against him at a closed hearing last month. Mr Connolly's lawyers voiced surprise last night that the only witness called against him — the head of his department — had acknowledged that he had not read the book.

The 46-year-old Briton, a career European civil servant who has worked in Brussels since 1978 and headed the unit that monitors the exchange-rate mechanism, was suspended from duty last September after publishing *The Rotten Heart of Europe — The Dirty War for Europe's Money*. Mr Connolly said last night he was disappointed by the way that the disciplinary



Connolly, accused of "flouting loyalty"

council headed by David Williamson, the Commission's British Secretary-General, failed to "take into account the detailed refutation of the Commission's allegations which we provided."

His lawyers said they had been surprised by the rushed manner of the disciplinary proceedings and the calling of a prosecution witness against Mr Connolly without warning. Giovanni Ravasio, the director-general of Mr

Connolly's department, gave evidence on the impact of the book but admitted he had not read it, said Jacques Sanbon, his lawyer. Commission officials were not available for comment.

In its ruling, signed by Franz de Koster, the director-general of personnel, the Commission said that Mr Connolly had breached two articles in the EU staff conditions. These covered the publication of books without permission and actions which damage the interests of the Community.

The council said Mr Connolly did not seek permission for his book when he took unpaid leave last summer because he knew that he would be refused, having previously failed to receive approval.

Mr Connolly "could not have been unaware of the fact" that the contents of the book conflicted with policies adopted by the Commission in its role as executor of the Maastricht treaty and the project for economic and monetary union (EMU), it said. His action had flouted the loyalty and honesty

which he was bound to show towards the Commission and his superiors, it said. His conduct had "seriously damaged the interests of the Community".

Mr Connolly has argued that by airing his view that EMU was a threat to Europe he had been acting in the Union's interests. He also insisted that nothing in the book was confidential.

The sacking takes effect next month, which his lawyers said appeared to be aimed at gagging Mr Connolly over the next fortnight. He had been due on Monday to give evidence to the House of Lords European Committee and to appear before the Commons Treasury Select Committee later this month.

While there is no direct course of appeal, European Union civil servants can challenge the legality of a dismissal at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Mr Connolly has a case pending there, alleging that the Commission acted illegally against him. An appeal would not be heard for at least two years.



Silvio Berlusconi during a break in court yesterday

## France and Nato ease nuclear rift

BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE outlined yesterday its decision to play a closer part in Nato military affairs, but held back from joining two key alliance policy committees.

Gerard Herrera, the French Ambassador, warned the 16-nation North Atlantic Council in Brussels against any hopes of France returning to "the situation that existed before 1966", when the French pulled out of Nato's integrated military command structure.

But yesterday's announcement of closer ties was clearly intended to provide the French with a voice on all key military and security issues — including, for the first time in 30 years, nuclear policy.

Since 1966, France has taken part only in Nato foreign ministers' meetings and has kept its armed forces outside Nato's military command. M. Herrera said France was now prepared to discuss nuclear issues.

The country will resume its seat on the alliance's military committee, the Nato situation centre, the defence college in Rome and defence school in Oberammergau, and re-establish a permanent military mission to Nato. It will not rejoin the alliance's Defence Planning Committee or Nuclear Planning Group.

## Kinkel sure Britain will back euro

BY GEORGE BROCK  
EUROPEAN EDITOR

BRITAIN will not be able to resist the tempting economic advantages and "logic" of a European single currency system and will join soon after it is set up, Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, predicted yesterday.

Herr Kinkel said in Oxford that the success of monetary union would force Britain to participate. He quoted Lord Howe, who once said that in Europe Britain "usually does the right thing in the end, only 20 years too late". Herr Kinkel said that he would not go as far as that but "it is better to catch the boat than to swim after it". He insisted that monetary union would start on time in 1999.

Attending the opening of a centre for European law at Oxford University, Herr Kinkel described the Anglo-German relationship as "unspectacular and down to earth, but close and intense". It was an "alliance of convictions". Both countries were in favour of an open trading system and against protectionism, wanted to restructure their economies, backed opening the European Union and Nato to Eastern European states and valued links to America.

Central bank fears, page 25

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# Berlusconi taunts journalists as bribe trial begins

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN MILAN  
AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

**SILVIO BERLUSCONI**, the Italian multimillionaire media tycoon and former Prime Minister, sneered at journalists and begged the court to stop the case being broadcast live on his own television channels as his trial on corruption charges opened yesterday.

The small courtroom in Milan's Palace of Justice was so cramped that reporters squeezed into a steel cage for prisoners. The Forza Italia party leader, 59, sat on a bench next to them. When he strode into the courtroom, he declared: "I don't feel like a defendant." But the strain of the trial began to tell as proceedings began.

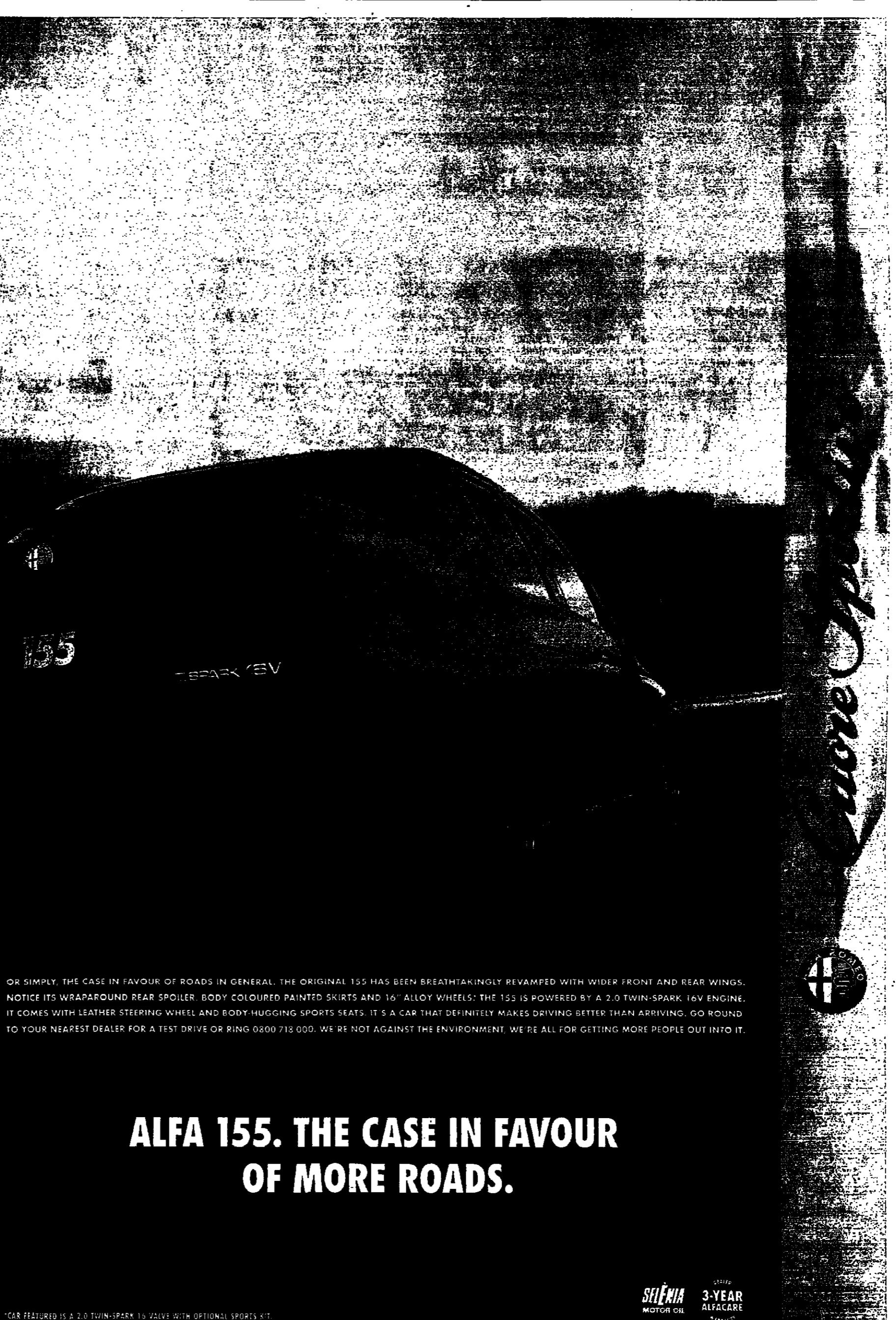
On trial with Signor Berlusconi are Paolo, his younger brother, and five associates of his Fininvest business empire. They are accused of paying 380 million lire (£150,000) in bribes to tax inspectors reviewing the company's books. Paolo, who was not in court, has admitted making the payments, but

claims that his brother had no knowledge of them.

During a break in the proceedings, Signor Berlusconi strode to the cage holding about 20 hapless journalists, and declared: "This is where you belong." The scribes demanded to know why his lawyers had requested that the trial not be screened live. Signor Berlusconi said he did not want it to turn into a spectacle. But judicial sources said he clearly wanted to limit damage to his image.

The judge compromised by allowing RAI state television to tape the proceedings for an edited broadcast. The trial was adjourned until January 26.

The Italian media are portraying the trial as a duel for power between Signor Berlusconi and Antonio Di Pietro, the Milan magistrate who led the Clean Hands anti-corruption drive. Signor Berlusconi has accused him of being "politically motivated". Signor Di Pietro has since resigned as a magistrate and is pursuing a political career.





## ANATOLE KALETSKY 29



Time to stop  
fighting  
inflation



## BOOKS 40, 41

Churchill and the  
postwar wanderings  
of the Tories



## SPORT 42-48

One-day frailties  
return to haunt  
England cricketers

GEOFF BROWN  
ON THE  
LATEST FILMS  
Arts 37-39

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 18 1996

## Gas regulator fuels calls for market delay

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE start of competition to supply gas to 500,000 homes in the southwest of England may have to be delayed because of legitimate concerns at British Gas that technical preparations are incomplete. Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, said yesterday.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mrs Spottiswoode also forecast that the Government may decide by tomorrow whether to impose a levy on consumers to fund liabilities of more than £1 billion arising from take-or-pay purchase contracts signed by British Gas. Her remarks confirm the difficulties that have snared preparations to enable Britain's 18 million household gas users to choose their supplier.

Last week, Harry Moulson, a British Gas main board director and head of TransCo, its pipeline subsidiary, said that the April 1 start date for competition should be delayed until June.

Chris Rees, a Deloitte & Touche (formerly Touche Ross) consultant appointed by Ofgas to determine whether competition can still go ahead on April 1, will report to Mrs Spottiswoode tomorrow.

An industry-wide meeting, bringing together the Department of Trade and Industry, Ofgas, the industry regulatory body, TransCo, British Gas Supply and almost 30 shippers - rival gas suppliers, has been convened for next Tuesday to review progress.

"There is absolutely no doubt that the April 1 target date is very fragile," Mrs Spottiswoode said. "It is an extremely daunting timetable." She added: "I do think

## Power plea

BUYERS of electricity for industry yesterday called for a delay to the full opening of the market to competition in 1998 (Christine Buckley writes).

The Utility Buyers' Forum, which already buys power at competitive prices after liberalisation of the market for users of over 1MW and 100kW, urged Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, to postpone the opening from the planned date of April 1998. The decision over where the funding will come from for the massive project has not yet been resolved.

The pilot is intended to test systems in preparation for full national competition in the household gas market by January 1, 1999.

Mrs Spottiswoode also said that she believes the Government should take powers to

impose a levy on gas consumers in licences that are about to be issued to companies wanting to compete in the household gas market. "I think they should put it in," she said. "It is a very fine choice."

But she said that levy powers would be a "double-edged sword" that might make it more difficult for British Gas to renegotiate gas purchase arrangements with its suppliers.

The head of Ofgas said that unless the DTI wrote a levy provision into the licences now, primary legislation could be needed in the future to resolve British Gas's difficulties over take-or-pay contracts stretching decades ahead and covering the purchase of gas worth £40 billion.

British Gas, because of the rate at which it is losing its market to rivals, no longer needs all the gas it has contracted to buy. Yet, under the terms of the contracts, it must pay North Sea producers, whether or not the gas is used.

The company is unable to sell surplus gas to its rivals because the spot price of gas has slumped to around 10p a therm, less than half of the 21p average that British Gas is paying.

The DTI has urged gas producers to renegotiate the contracts with British Gas but not at a substantial loss. Mrs Spottiswoode believes the losses and liabilities could threaten the financial viability of British Gas, and that a levy may prove the last resort if producers fail to agree price cuts to the former monopoly.

Pennington, page 27  
Complications, page 29



Time for reflection: Clare Spottiswoode making a point during yesterday's interview

## Earnings boost for rate cut hopes

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, met yesterday for their monthly interest rate discussion armed with new evidence that wage pressures remain subdued.

Annual growth in average earnings remained at 3.25 per cent in November, the fifth month in a row at that level. The City had been expecting a rise to 3.5 per cent and argued that the news removes yet another hurdle to lower rates.

Mr Clarke and Mr George met yesterday afternoon for an hour and, while a minority in the City believes a rate cut could be announced today, most think it is too soon after rates were cut by a quarter point in December.

A picture of sluggish economic growth was backed up by news of a 7,900 fall in unemployment in December, one of the smallest monthly falls in recent months.

The only worrying sign for inflation was news of a pick up in unit labour costs, which were up 4 per cent year on year in the three months ended November. This is because manufacturing output has been slowing but employment rising, leading to a fall in productivity and a rise in unit labour costs. However, weaker output is also depressing factory gate prices, which is crucially important to future retail price inflation.

Also announced was a £1 billion public sector borrowing requirement for December. This was higher than the City had expected but was largely due to a change in the timing of interest payments. Most economists believe that the PSBR is on track to meet the Government's full-year forecast of £29 billion.

The City is now eagerly awaiting today's figures for retail prices and retail sales.

Pennington, page 27

## BUSINESS TODAY

## STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3704.2	(-6.4)
Yield	3.88%	
FTSE All share	1811.60	(-2.44)
Midex	2057.05	(+3.15)
New York	5082.44	(-5.78)
Dow Jones	608.96	(+0.52)

## S&amp;P Composite

## US RATE

Federal Funds	5.74%	(5.74)
Long Bond	11.11%	(11.11)
Yield	6.04%	(6.04%)

## LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.74%	(6.74%)
Libor long gilt future (Mar)	111.11%	(111.11%)

## STERLING

New York	1.5268*	(1.5350)
London	1.5245	(1.5375)
DM	2.2359	(2.2436)
FF	7.6359	(7.6700)
SPF	1.8059	(1.8056)
Yen	105.37	(105.97)
£ Index	160.32	(162.43)

## \$SS\$ DOLLAR

London	1.4863*	(1.4857)
DM	1.0089*	(1.0095)
FF	1.1833*	(1.1825)
SPF	105.37	(105.97)
Yen	83.4	(83.4)

## Tokyo close Yen 106.13

## NORTH SEA OIL

## Brent 15-day (Apr) \$16.50 (ung)

## GOLD

## London close \$387.45 (\$387.00)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Lloyds talks

Britain's second largest chemists may soon be in new hands after revealing that it is in talks with a potential buyer, Lloyds Chemists, which also owns the Holland & Barrett health food chain.

It was also announced that the company, which has been in talks with a potential buyer, Lloyds Chemists, which also owns the Holland & Barrett health food chain, said it was talking to one interested party with whom it has been in discussion for some time. Lloyds shares

News of the discussions sent the share price up 75p to 36p.

## Page 27

## Bank worries

The relationship between banks and small businesses

still has scope for improvement. Page 30

## Forte battle enters its final throes

By ERIC REGALY

THE decisive moment in the battle for Forte comes tomorrow, when both Forte and Granada hold their final meeting with Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager whose support is considered crucial to the bid's outcome.

MAM owns about 15 per cent of Forte, making it the single largest shareholder of the hotels and restaurants group. Forte's chances of remaining independent will be considerably weakened unless it can convince MAM that Granada's £3.8 billion offer does not adequately reflect Forte's potential future value.

Granada yesterday bought another 8.3 million Forte shares, paying 384p apiece, to raise its stake to 9.9 per cent. The Forte family owns approximately 8 per cent of Forte, but its management hopes to retain many of the individual shareholders.

Leading article, page 19

## Tesco leads the winners over the festive period

By SARAH BAGNALL



MacLaurin: delighted

MIXED news emerged from the high street yesterday on trading over the festive period with Tesco claiming it had enjoyed its finest Christmas, while Body Shop issued a surprise profit warning.

Tesco lifted like-for-like sales by 8.5 per cent in the 20 weeks to December 30 and by 10 per cent in the four weeks leading up to the new year. Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco chairman, said: "This was the best Christmas we have ever had. This reflects the success of Clubcard as well as our Christmas range." The company's shares suffered from news of price pledges from Esso and Shell that threaten to erode Tesco's profit sales. The shares slipped 15p to 308p.

The Body Shop, the eco-friendly cosmetics group, reported flat like-for-like sales in the ten weeks to December 30. It blamed the difficult retail climate in the US, reflected in

## Finance panel overhaul

By ROSS TIEMAN

THE Private Finance Panel, which advises the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, on his plans to replace £14 billion of public spending with private sector projects, is being overhauled in an effort to give the initiative new impetus.

Ten members of the 16-strong panel are stepping down, while only three new recruits will join. They are Gren Folwell, finance director of the Halifax Building Society; Robin Fox, vice-chairman of merchant bank Kleinwort Benson Group; and Alastair Ross Goobey, chief executive of Hermes Pensions Management.

Seven members of the new nine-person panel will each take responsibility for oversight of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects within a particular ministry.

Among those leaving the panel are Howard Davies, the deputy governor of the Bank of England.

Loyalty card, page 26  
Tempus, page 28

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## Timetable for European bank 'not viable'

By PATRICIA TEHAN  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A EUROPEAN central bank is unworkable under current economic and political conditions in Europe and should be postponed. To suggest that the 1999 single currency timetable is viable "flies in the face of the facts", according to Lord Tugendhat, a former European Commissioner.

Lord Tugendhat, a staunch pro-European and chairman of Abbey National, Britain's fifth biggest bank, cast doubt over the likely success of the central bank proposal at a dinner in London last night, the first time a senior British banker has publicly attacked the proposals.

He said that among the most important objectives of the proposed European central bank, "is that it should maintain a

greater degree of monetary stability within the participating states as a group than could otherwise be achieved". To do that decisions must be made that are "often painful and unpopular". Such decisions affect "not just markets but jobs, the prosperity of many people and the profits, even the existence of individual firms", he said.

The institution charged with making such decisions had to be able to act quickly and decisively and its decisions must be fully and simultaneously implemented throughout the jurisdiction to which they apply". But Lord Tugendhat said it was questionable whether European Union institutions, such as a central bank, at the present time or for the next few years "will enjoy the moral and practical authority required

## Loyalty Visa launched by Budgens

BY SARAH BAGNALL

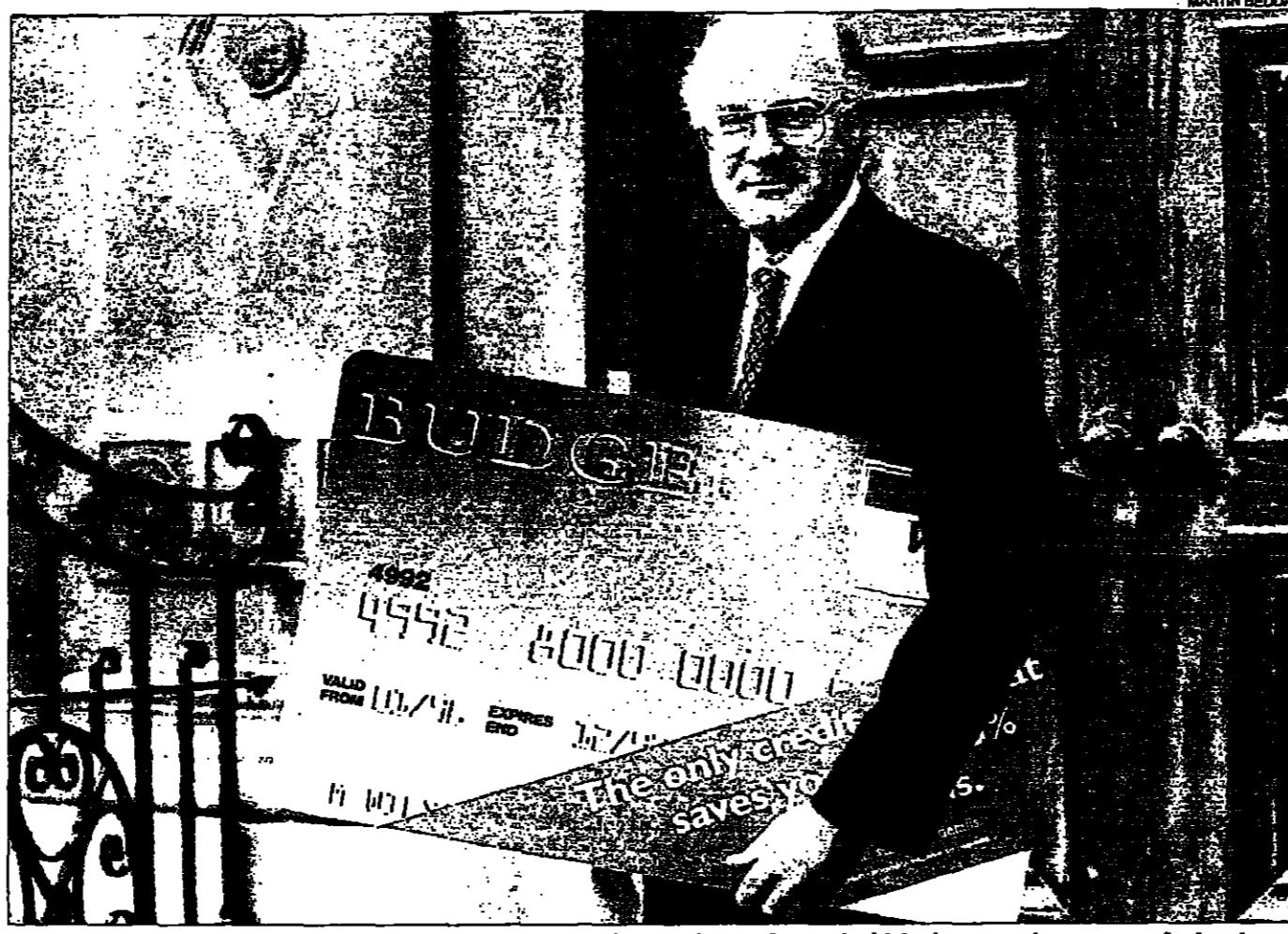
**BUDGENS**, the South East-based food retailer, yesterday launched a loyalty card with a difference – a Visa card.

John von Spreckelsen, chief executive, said: "It is a unique card. It has features that make it far superior to anything else in the market."

Launched in conjunction with The Associates, an American finance organisation owned by the Ford Group, the Budgens Visa card is unusual in that users can still accrue points if they shop at rival supermarket groups but use their Budgens card to pay.

Mr von Spreckelsen said the initial target audience for the card was the group's one million shoppers. Currently only 26 per cent of its customers use cards. Budgens is not incurring any of the costs of the card and as a result the scheme will not dilute earnings.

The news came as Budgens revealed a rise in pre-tax profits from £900,000 to £1.3 million in the 28 weeks to November 12, helped by the group abandoning Penny Market, the loss-incurring discount venture. This helped to lift gross margins while the replacement format, Freshsaver, helped to lift sales. Sales rose from £150.1 million to £162.6 million and like-for-like sales rose 4.5 per cent. The interim dividend, due April 11, was up for the first time in several years, from 30.3p to 35p, and is payable out of earnings of 2.1p (0.4p). Shares rose 1p to 34½p.



John von Spreckelsen, chief executive, with a mock-up of the Budgens Visa card which also rewards customers for loyalty

## Pru falls as rivals' sales increase

BY MARIANNE CURPHY

THREE of the UK's major life companies showed gains in new business during 1995 while the Prudential's sales fell 8 per cent during what it described as a "difficult" year.

Sales of annual premium life and pension products and single premium products at the Prudential, the UK's biggest insurance company, both fell 8 per cent to £244 million and £2.07 billion respectively as the public remained reluctant to buy pensions and life products after the mis-selling scandal.

Worldwide, annual sales were down 3 per cent to £500 million and single premium sales down 11 per cent to £4.47 billion in the year to December 31.

While the fall throughout the industry was an average 15 per cent in 1995, General Accident, which assumed control of the pensions provider Provident Mutual on January 1, reported a 53 per cent increase in total new premiums.

Scottish Life unveiled increases in group and individual pensions business but a drop in mortgage sales, and Scottish Widows reported total new premium income up 44 per cent to £1.05 billion.

The value of General Accident's new business reached a record £936 million, comprising £844 million of new single premiums and £42.3 million of new annual premiums.

General Accident admitted that several hundred staff out of 5,200 employed by General Accident Life after its takeover of Provident Mutual could be shed under restructuring plans. Peter Haleys, assistant general manager, said 100 jobs had already gone.

## Whitehall concedes rate of jobless fall is slowing

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government now recognises that the downturn trend in unemployment is declining. This was made clear by Whitehall officials yesterday, but lower than expected fall of 7,900 in the number of work and claiming benefit.

Ministers claimed the decline was "clear evidence" of the success of the Government's economic policies, though opposition leaders warned the figures meant a looming return of recession.

New figures published by the Central Statistical Office confirmed the blunder by Michael Heseltine, Deputy

Prime Minister, who disclosed the 28th successive monthly fall in unemployment a day too soon. Though headline, unadjusted unemployment actually rose by 32,078 to 2,228,214 in December, after being seasonally adjusted figures seen as the best guide to the trend in unemployment showed a 7,900 fall to 2,236,900 – 8 per cent of the workforce and a four-and-a-half-year low.

Seasonally-adjusted unemployment fell for men and women, but rose in Scotland, where even on an adjusted basis it went up by 800. Statisticians stuck to their

belief that the likely monthly fall in unemployment remains 10-15,000, though they produced figures to show that since unemployment fell from its peak in December 1992 – it is now down 741,600 since – the rate of decrease is clearly declining.

In 1995, unemployment fell by 16,500 a month, by a monthly average of 33,100 in 1994 and by 15,000 a month in 1993. Over the past six months it has fallen by an average of 12,800, and over the past three by 9,500 before last month's fall of 7,900. A Whitehall statistician said: "There are signs that the downward trend

has been declining since 1994."

Last month's figures rose

because more people were

joining the unemployment

count and fewer people left it.

The flow of people joining the count rose by 2,200 to 295,800

while the number of people

leaving it dropped by 8,500 to 305,000.

Separate figures from the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey showed a 7,000 rise in the number of claimants unemployed, as measured on the internationally-accepted ILO basis, though Whitehall officials insisted that the increase was largely a "sampling fluctuation" and should not be given undue significance. ILO unemployment in the autumn quarter fell by 15,000 to 2.4 million.

At the same time, the stock

of vacancies at JobCentres fell

by 3,400 in the month to

December, and placings into

jobs fell by 700.

Ministers denied any signifi-

cance in the lower-than-ex-

pected fall in claimant unem-

ployment. Eric Forth, Educa-

tion and Employment minister, said: "Figures will

inevitably fluctuate from

month to month." But Labour

said the "small drop masks

the growing evidence of a

return to recession".

John Monks, TUC General

Secretary, said the figures

showed that the "recovery is

beginning to peter out", and

called on Kenneth Clarke, the

Chancellor, to cut interest

rates immediately.

Figures from the CSO

showed a big increase in days

lost through industrial action

last November – up to 69,000

over the month compared to

29,000 in October and just

17,000 in November 1994.

Chris Trinder, chief econo-

mist of the Chartered Institute

of Public Finance and Ac-

countancy, said: "Public sec-

tor workers in 1996 could have

their worst year since 1990."

successive month by 3.25 per

cent. But some economists

continued to be concerned

about earnings, saying that

an upswing in earnings

growth is probably inevitable

in the coming months.

However, public sector pay

specialists said the flat earn-

ings growth might mean pub-

lic sector workers falling

behind when the Government

announces – probably by

early next month – the

awards from the pay review

bodies for 1.5 million

employees.

In the period, wages and

salaries per unit of output in

manufacturing industry rose

4 per cent compared with a

year previously. This marks a

rise from the 3.1 per cent

increase in November, and

continues a steadily rising

trend.

But average earnings re-

mained stable, with the un-

derlying rise for the whole

economy rising for the fifth

month in a row since 1993.

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

## Productivity falling for first time in ten years

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PRODUCTIVITY is falling in Britain for the first time in ten years, new Government figures showed yesterday.

The productivity totals – especially when coupled with continuing rising unit labour costs, although average earnings growth remained flat – will dispirit business leaders striving to improve UK industrial competitiveness.

New figures from the Central Statistical Office showed that manufacturing output per head in the three months to November fell 0.1 per cent compared with a year before.

Although this is the very small fall, it marks the first decline fall in the three-month productivity figures – total productivity figures – since

1986. The figures remain stable, with the underlying rise for the whole economy rising for the fifth

month in a row since 1993.

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

## Lloyd's to insist on 'passport' to work

BY GRAHAM SEARLENT FINANCIAL EDITOR

LLOYD'S of London's regulators are to authorise individual market professionals for the first time. David Gittings, who succeeded Rosalind Gilmore as head of regulation, said that tests applied would include competence, as shown for instance by a manager's underwriting record.

The drive for individual passports to work at the insurance market is part of a plan to make regulation more like that under the Financial Services Act. Sir Alan Hardcastle, chairman of Lloyd's Regulatory Board, unveiled the first annual regulatory plan yesterday. He said that openness was one of the main recommendations of the review by Miss Gilmore.

Authorising individuals to trade depends on agreeing a code of business conduct, similar to those promoted by the Securities and Investments Board. Sir Alan hopes to complete the code this month.

Sir Alan said that authorisation would initially apply to between 4,000 and 6,000 key individuals in agencies, mostly directors and underwriting managers. Mr Gittings hopes to process these within a year of people having to apply, probably in the Spring. No time has been set for authorisation to be needed to trade, but Sir Alan insisted that existing professionals would not automatically qualify, saying: "Some will have to leave or will not apply."

The board will also monitor firms more often, streamline disciplinary procedures, make firms liable for employees and bring in a tariff of fines for minor failings.

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## Blinder leaving Fed

## Advocate of lower US rates to quit

ALAN BLINDER, Deputy Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and a strong advocate of lower US interest rates, is to step down when his term of office expires at the end of this month.

Mr Blinder's departure will remove the chief supporter at the Fed of a more relaxed monetary policy. In late 1994, and over the past few months, he has argued that the softening of the US economy required lower interest rates to avoid the risk of recession.

His view has increasingly gained ground at the Fed and most economists now expect the central bank to cut the rate by about half a percentage point at its next meeting on January 30.

Mr Blinder's departure virtually ensures that the top Fed appointments remain in the hands of Republican sympathisers. Mr Blinder was President Bill Clinton's most influential appointee at the Fed and when he was appointed two years ago was touted as a possible successor to Alan Greenspan as chairman.

However, the Republican majority in Congress appears to have put paid to that. Mr Greenspan's second four-year term expires in March but he

is widely expected to be re-appointed by the President, even though he was originally a Republican appointment.

Mr Blinder, an academic from Princeton University and a lifelong Keynesian, often drew criticism from Wall Street for his willingness to tolerate a degree of inflation to keep the economy growing.

His departure leaves a vacancy on the seven-member Fed board, which the President must fill. It is doubtful, however, whether Mr Blinder's economic views.

His replacement will be

John Dawson, a former

director of Rom Data Cor-

poration of Falmouth, a

small software firm in

Massachusetts.

Mr Dawson, 49, has been

an economic adviser to

President Clinton since

1993.

He has also been a

member of the

President's Council of Economic Advisors.

Mr Dawson has been

an economic adviser to

President Clinton since

1993.

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Tugendhat sounds a note of caution  Paying for the North Sea bubble  Lime Street follows in Gilmore's footsteps

WHEN a Europhile like Lord Tugendhat is forced to make a public attack on the concept of a European central bank, and by implication on chances of economic and monetary union, it is a clear sign that the mood is turning against the current EMU timetable.

Lord Tugendhat is only voicing what Britain's most senior bankers have been saying privately at lunches and dinners in the City for months. But since Abbey National has more to gain from a single currency than its rivals, which have massive foreign exchange trading systems, perhaps he feels that he is in a stronger position to speak out.

He has been one of the biggest supporters of the European Union and a great believer that a single market needs a single currency. But he sensibly questions the wisdom of being a slave to a timetable that does not reflect the underlying realities.

There is a growing awareness that the move towards a single currency is being driven by the will of the politicians, not of the public. Indeed, there is little evidence of any public yearning within the community, outside one or two special interest groups, for closer economic ties. But once politicians have set themselves a firm deadline they are unwilling to give it up, even though the whole Maastricht

debate showed the need to ensure a degree of public support before attempting to implement anything that would have a radical effect on people's lives.

If the current timetable remains in place, and a single currency and a European central bank is imposed on a reluctant or, at best, acquiescent but surly European population, not only will it be difficult to convince them that the new institution carries sufficient moral and practical authority, the international capital markets will soon recognise it is based on a political fudge rather than on solid economic criteria.

The strike in France showed that when the French impose painful economic decisions on the French, the result is civil unrest. The unification of East and West German currencies was tricky, even though it had overwhelming political and public support. How popular would such measures be if imposed from outside, by Eurocrats?

Lord Tugendhat is suggesting an unspecified delay before another timetable is set. But there is a

Catch 22 here. If there is no timetable, there is unlikely to be a single currency or a European central bank.

If the current timetable is imposed on Europe and a system rushed in when economic criteria are not achieved and public will is not behind it, and when it cannot be shown that there will be a beneficial rather than a negative effect on everyone's lives, it will never be met.

### The gasman cometh

AT British Gas it is put up or shut up time, time for the Government to decide just who foots the cost of the £40 billion forward contracts that have gone sour for Britain's most unpopular utility.

The candidates are the customer, the public exchequer, British Gas shareholders, the North Sea producers — or any combination of the above. A mix-and-match is most likely, but it will be a judgment of Solomon to share out the burden fairly.

The easiest option is a straight

### PENNINGTON



levy on all gas shipped, to cover the eventual losses. The loser: the customer, who sees fewer benefits from competition in the domestic market, whenever that may eventually arrive. The drawback: political, in that the consumer pays for British Gas's earlier mistakes, and much of the benefit of one of the Government's most prized policies is lost shortly before an election. Probability: less than 25 per cent.

The next option is to allow the losses to be recouped by adjusting the regulatory formulae governing future price rises. The losers: the customers, because of higher prices than otherwise, British Gas, because there will have to be some give and take on either side, and the producers.

Probability: pretty good, if combined with:

Option five: club the North Sea

drawback: it would take some crude and public arm-twisting, in the form of veiled tax threats, to bring the producers to the table. But it's a tough world. Probability: overwhelming. But time, and ministers, will tell.

**Lloyd's gears up for statutory regulation**

LLOYD'S Regulatory Board is making its machinery look as much as possible like the self-regulatory organisations that nestle under the nervous skirts of the Securities and Investments Board. If groups such as the all-party Treasury Select Committee get their way and Lloyd's is brought into a new, statutory independent framework after the election, disruption need not be

probability: negligible.

Option four is to allow nature to take its course, with no levy, contract renegotiation, or any other sop to the British Gas

finances. The losers: British Gas shareholders, deprived of future dividend growth. The drawback: not the greatest advertisement for privatisation ahead of the Railtrack and British Energy floats. Probability: pretty good, if combined with:

Opinion five: club the North Sea

producers into reaching agreement with British Gas over renegotiation of the contracts. The losers: the customers, because of higher prices than otherwise, British Gas, because there will have to be some give and take on either side, and the producers.

Probability: ditto. The

to authorise individuals as well as firms to trade carries the footprints of Rosalind Gilmore, the short-lived former head of regulation. It makes Lloyd's a hybrid, in FSA terms, between a recognised exchange and a regulator such as the Securities and Futures Association. This begs the question whether Lloyd's should do both or whether the dual functions of the old London Stock Exchange should have been divided in the first place.

Meanwhile, individual authorisation, increased monitoring and a more routine disciplinary system should hasten the trend to a slimmer, more professional but duller, less potentially profitable Lloyd's. As usual at Lloyd's, however, the change will depend on how far its barons allow the new regulatory plan to be put into purposeful action.

### Number crunch

STUNG by the Treasury Select Committee's charge that he tends towards pessimism on inflation, Eddie George has his first chance today to show that he has turned over a new leaf. Although nobody seriously believes that rates are coming down at once, watch for the Bank of England's money market operations at 10.15 this morning. A flat set of retail trade and inflation numbers, and you never know.

## Wolf will sink teeth in USAir unions

USAir, which is 25 per cent owned by British Airways, has appointed a tough new chairman and chief executive to handle key negotiations with its unions.

Stephen Wolf, who stepped down as head of United Airways in 1994, replaces the outgoing chairman, Seth Schofield. Mr Schofield is leaving partly because he failed to secure concessions from USAir's powerful unions. The company, which has the highest cost structure in the industry, has said it is aiming for cuts of around \$500 million.

A priority of the new chairman is likely to be the deepening of USAir's relationship with BA, although this will require delicate handling in the face of Congressional opposition to the foreign ownership of US airlines.

### Photo-Me warning

Shares in Photo-Me International fell 8p to 125p after the world's leading photo booth maker and operator accompanied flat first-half profits with a warning of lower full-year profits. The company, which also runs copyists, express print services and automatic film processing systems, blames the anticipated shortfall on the recent French strikes.

Photo-Me's pre-tax profits edged up to £10.1 million in the six months to October 31, compared with £10 million last time, on turnover ahead 8.4 per cent to £104.4 million. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p and is payable on April 9.

### Imro takes action

Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, said that investigations and disciplinary proceedings were in progress against some of its members over past pension transfer business. The potential rule breaches, possibly involving 'systemic failing' in the sales process, came to light as a result of the industry-wide review of the personal pensions mis-selling scandal.

## Bid talks lift shares in Lloyds Chemists

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE second-biggest chemist in the high street may soon be in new hands after revealing that it is in talks with a potential buyer.

Lloyds Chemists, which also owns the Holland & Barrett health food chain, said it was talking to one interested party with whom it has been in discussion for some time. News of the discussions sent the share price leaping 75p to 366p, while the market listed with an array of possible suspects.

Many large retailers were cited, although much of the spotlight fell on UniChem, the compa

ny's health service association contracts. Such contracts are controlled so that in any area there is only a certain number of outlets that are allowed to sell prescribed drugs. The transfer of those contracts to

such a supermarket chain or other controlling company would be likely to meet with opposition from local pharmacies.

Lloyds told the Stock Exchange before the market opened yesterday that it had received an approach which could lead to an offer being made for its entire share capital. It made the announcement after the share price had climbed in the previous day's trading.

The company said it was consulting Samuel Montagu, its financial advisers. Rupert Faure Walker, a corporate finance director of the merchant bank, said that a further announcement was likely by the chemist, which has 900 branches and owns 300 Hol-

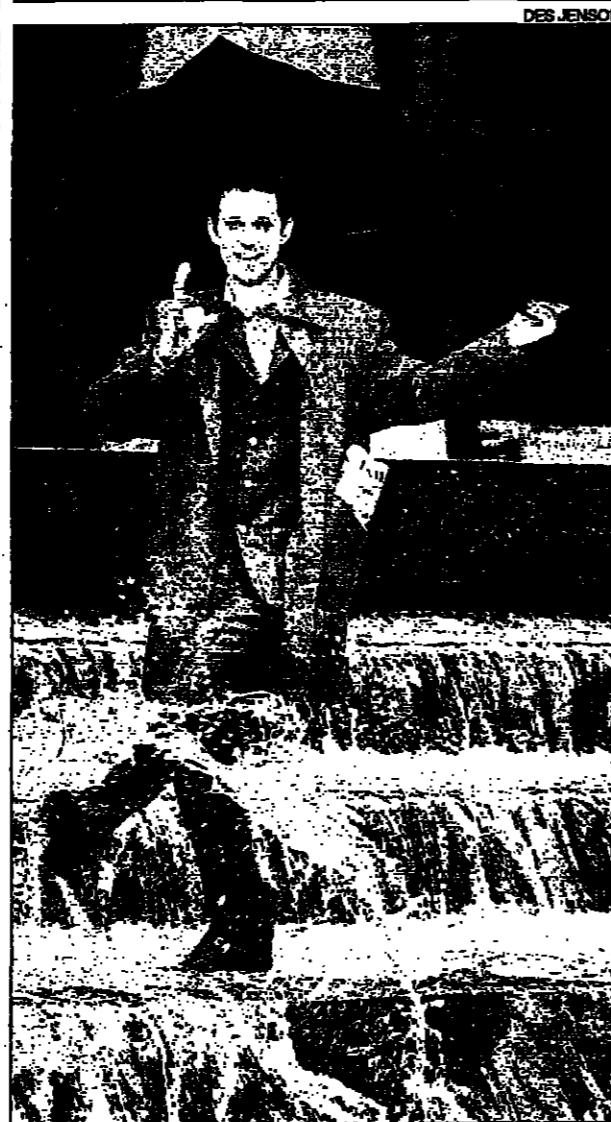
land & Barrett outlets, within several days.

Mr Faure Walker would give no indication of the bidder's identity except that there was only one name in the frame.

At yesterday's share price, Lloyds was worth £465 million, while analysts are suggesting that the buyer may have to pay a premium in the order of 20 per cent.

Lloyds has been the subject of bid speculation for some time, with the rumours escalating as the retail pharmaceutical market has become increasingly competitive. Margins in the drug stores have been slimmed by fiercer pricing from rivals.

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Peter Lockhead models clothes by Burro, the menswear designer that won the NatWest export award for small businesses at the 1995 British Apparel Export Awards

### Wainhomes calls in police over valuations

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

POLICE have been called in to Wainhomes and is investigating "valuation irregularities" found at the Cheshire housebuilder's northern division in Standish, Lancashire.

The irregularities are understood to relate to false billings and valuations. Two employees at the group's Wainhomes Northern division have been dismissed and two are suspended pending investigations.

The group estimates that the effect of adjusting work-in-progress to take account of the irregularities will result in an additional charge to building costs of about £2 million. Some of this relates to the year to March 31, 1995. The accounts were audited by KPMG.

Peter Smith, Wainhomes' chief executive, has been dismissed, although the group said he was not involved in the irregularities.

Mr Smith sold 20 per cent of his stake in the company, realising £1.11 million, when it was floated in 1994. He was on a two-year contract and is understood to have received £192,000 last year as well as £12,000 of pension contributions, which may entitle him to a £400,000-plus payoff. Terms are being discussed.

## Welsh Water strikes a deal with Ofwat

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

WELSH WATER has struck a compromise with the water regulator over its bid for South Wales Electricity only days before the Director-General of Fair Trading is due to reach a decision on the takeover.

Ian Byatt, the Director-General of Water Services, had called for the water business of the merged utility to be listed on the Stock Exchange separately to enable price transparency and so he could monitor other aspects of the business. But Welsh refused saying arguing that the requirements of a separate board

for the business and selling off a percentage of the share capital would defeat many benefits of a takeover. It complained that such demands were not placed on North West Water when it bought Norweb.

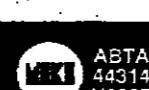
Various conditions have now been agreed which stop short of Mr Byatt's demand for separate listing, which he now intends to pursue on an industry-wide basis.

Part of the compromise

includes new issuance of preference shares which would be separately listed.

Tempus, page 28

### Reach the Japanese Tourist Market



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## Gartmore stake still up for sale

GARTMORE, the UK fund management group, said no buyer has been secured for the 75 per cent interest in the company held by Banque Indosuez. The stake was put up for sale in September (Patricia Tehan writes).

Negotiations are believed to have founded on the widely differing views of the buyers and sellers over how to price Gartmore.

At yesterday's share price, Lloyds was worth £465 million, while analysts are suggesting that the buyer may have to pay a premium in the order of 20 per cent.

Lloyds has been the subject of bid speculation for some time, with the rumours escalating as the retail pharmaceutical market has become increasingly competitive. Margins in the drug stores have been slimmed by fiercer pricing from rivals.

In a brief statement to the Stock Exchange, Gartmore said: "Banque Indosuez continues to seek to dispose of its shareholding and is in contact with a number of potentially interested parties."

## Dance division lifts First Leisure

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

FIRST LEISURE, the sports and amusements group, upped to a 7 per cent increase in profits at £40 million for 1995 helped by a strong performance from its dancing and bowling divisions.

The dividend was increased 10 per cent to 7.72p but the company was cautious on trading for 1996 and shares fell 19p to 349p.

John Conlon, chief executive, said: "We are very close to the consumer and feel that there has been a fall-off in spending growth. But we are confident of meeting our medium-term objectives."

The star performer was the dancing division where profits were up 17 per cent to £18 million and turnover increased 14 per cent to £57 million. The company said that last year admissions totalled a record seven million and it was looking to open a further 20 discos over the next two years.

The sports division profits were also up 17 per cent, to £11 million, with sales ahead 15 per cent to £41.5 million. But profits in the Bingo division suffered from a drop in sales in the smaller outlets and start-up costs associated with the opening of seven new Riva clubs. Sales rose 50 per cent to £15.5 million, while profits fell 14 per cent to £1.9 million. In the resort sector, sales fell 2 per cent at £44.5 million and profit dropped 5 per cent to £10.6 million.

Theatres contributed £600,000 million with hits including *Crazy For You* and *Copacabana*. The dividend is due on 10 April.

Tempus, page 28

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Investors take a rest as rate cut fails to appear

INVESTORS decided to take a breather after Tuesday's sharp gains with both equities and government securities giving up early gains.

There was no sign of the expected cut in interest rates after the monthly economic meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Hopes are still high that a further softening in rates will be signalled in the short term.

Certainly, share prices had a tired look about them last night as the FT-SE 100 index saw an early 12-point lead reversed before ending 6.4 lower at 3,704.2.

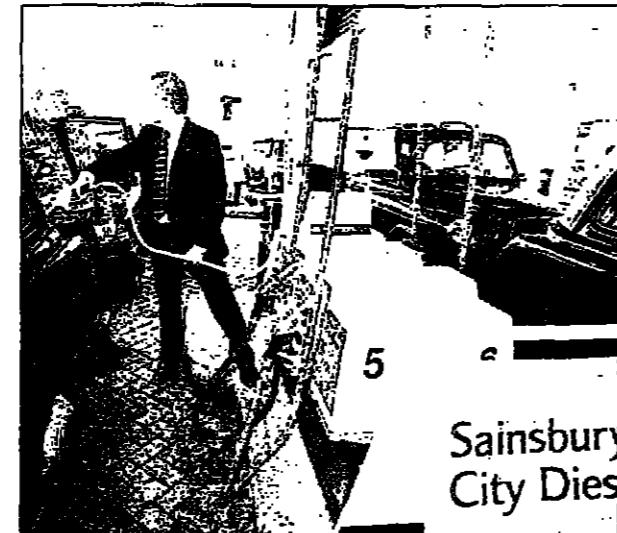
Investors have paid the price for a bad case of wishful thinking in shares of British Gas recently. They have outperformed the market 13 per cent during the past month in the hope that a quick solution could be found to the unprofitable gas supply contract.

But Ofgas, the industry regulator, has thrown a spanner in the works by making it clear that it will not be distracted from its review of the company's gas pipeline business by any problems being suffered over gas supply contracts.

The British Gas share price reacted to the comments with a fall of 12p at 255.2p as turnover in the shares reached more than 33 million.

News of a bid approach at Lloyds Chemists sent the shares soaring 75p to 366p. It came as little surprise to the City, which has been predicting such a move for months. At these levels, the group is capitalised at £437 million. In the past, its name has been linked with rival Boots, down 5p at 596p, and several supermarket chains, including Tesco and Asda. Favoured in the frame now is UniChem, down 10p at 239p.

Tesco moved quickly to deny the rumours linking it with Lloyds Chemists. This came as it gave a rundown of Christmas trading showing a 15.4 per cent rise in sales during the 20 weeks up to December 30. Like-for-like sales were 8.5 per cent ahead. Much of the achievement came on the back of its loyalty card scheme which paid out more than £25 million. But the shares failed to benefit, losing 7p to 308p on news of the petrol price war announced by Shell and Esso.



Sainsbury shares fell on news of Esso's petrol price cut

Both companies have announced cuts of up to 20p a gallon which is set to hit the likes of independent garage operators like Frost, which reacted with a fall of 10p to 171p. The news of a petrol price war also hit the other big supermarket chains that sell petrol, with J Sainsbury, down 6p to 417p, Argyll, off 8p to 348p, and Asda, 2p to

10p.

Kingsfisher responded to positive trading news with a jump of 6p to 538p. Group sales in the ten weeks to January 6 were up almost 4 per cent. The one black mark was its B&Q subsidiary which saw sales dip 3 per cent in a depressed marketplace.

Shares in TBL, the property investment and development company, firmed 2p to 58p, after Credit Lyonnais Laius issued a buy recommendation. CLL expects TBL which owns Cardiff airport and recently made a £42.9 million recommended bid for Molyneux Estates, to be the top performing property share in 1996.

Shares in Wainhomes, the property investment and development company, firmed 2p to 58p, after Credit Lyonnais Laius issued a buy recommendation. CLL expects TBL which owns Cardiff airport and recently made a £42.9 million recommended bid for Molyneux Estates, to be the top performing property share in 1996.

easier at 112p. Better than expected first-half profits lifted Budgens 1p to 341p.

A profits warning left Body Shop nursing a fall of 1p to 151p. The group said profits for the current year would fall short of the £35.5 million achieved last time. It blamed depressed sales in the US which had not shown the recovery that had been anticipated. Christmas trading saw

The biggest fall on the day was seen in Wainhomes, the housebuilder, with the price plunging 41p to 60p, a fall of almost 38 per cent, after it emerged that the Fraud Squad was looking at the company's affairs.

The group has also issued a profits warning claiming that profitability for the year is likely to be materially below current market expectations.

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In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 lost five ticks at £103 1/4, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost one tick to £105 3/4. Indexed issues managed to shrug off the previous day's disappointing performance to finish £14 better.

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Tom Rhodes in Washington  
on the latest political storm

## A slip which could cost Dole the presidency

THE BLIZZARDS that have swathed Washington in 3ft of snow claimed their most political victim this week when Elizabeth Dole, wife of the leading Republican presidential candidate, slipped on ice and fractured her wrist while out walking the dog.

For Mrs Dole, who has briefly left the presidency of the American Red Cross to pursue her husband's final attempt at the White House, the injury has proved a minor irritation that should be in time for the campaigning ahead.

A simultaneous political storm, emerging from a long career that has left a trail of policy decisions and private financial transactions, is unlikely to blow away with such ease.

Already *The New Yorker* magazine has turned its spotlight on her past, suggesting she had benefited financially from special treatment because of the political activities of her husband, Senator Robert Dole.

Elizabeth Dole at 59 is fast becoming the most compelling feature of her spouse's campaign, the Republican answer to Hillary Clinton.

Before the fracture, Mrs Dole had started a tour of the country. Not, as in Mrs Clinton's case, to promote a soul-searching book on children and consciously deflate an image of hardened haridan, but rather to insist on a new role for America's First Lady.

At each stop, after a reading of the impressive credentials of the only woman to serve in separate Cabinet posts for different Administrations, hosts would introduce Mrs Dole with the identical mantra: "She plans to return to her post as president of the American Red Cross upon her husband's election."

Mrs Dole, married for 20 years to the current Senate majority leader, puts it slightly differently. "There will be two President Doles if Bob is elected. He will be President of the United States, and I'll be president of the Red Cross."

While some see Mrs Dole's approach as refreshing, it has already created its own set of problems and conflicts of interest.



Elizabeth Dole

*The New Yorker* controversy, raising issues that surfaced during Mr Dole's presidential campaign in 1988, centres on David Owen, for 20 years one of the senator's closest aides in Kansas before he was convicted of tax fraud.

He spent much of that time managing Mrs Dole's personal investments, placing them in a blind trust while she served in government. The magazine suggests that Mrs Dole was given special treatment on several occasions.

Mrs Dole has dismissed the allegations and Mr Owen has said she was not actually told of blind-trust investments prior to any transaction.

The Doles have made every attempt to minimise the relationship they once had with Mr Owen, a course strikingly similar to that taken by the Clintons with once-favoured associates in Arkansas.

More than that, the revelations have come at a time when American politics is being governed by semantics. If pundits throughout the country are debating whether 60 hours of work in Arkansas by Hillary Clinton can be described as "minimal", should not Elizabeth Dole, a trained lawyer with top-flight degrees from Duke and Harvard who spent time at Oxford, be expected to read her own financial statements?

This may be the first electoral reminder that beneath the charming southern veneer of Elizabeth Dole lies an ambition that has already taken her to the top of the departments of transportation and labour, as well as the American Red Cross. She has harboured ambitions for the presidency as well as the vice-presidency and, since student days, has wanted to be married to the President of the United States.

Until now, the woman described by Lyndon B. Johnson as "a sugar-coated magnolia" has managed to disguise her single-minded intent, but just as conservative America thought it had seen the back of one dabbled First Lady, another is apparently waiting chameleon-like in the wings.

Little did Valerie Grove know how big an impact writing Dodie Smith's biography would have on her own life

"I WRITE THIS sitting in the kitchen sink." Until recently I had never read the famous opening line of Dodie Smith's *I Capture the Castle*, but every woman I met (and several men) had. It had been in print for 45 years, a favourite with young girls and their mothers. Antonia Fraser told me it contained the most erotic scene ever written: Armistead Maupin based a novel on its format; and even the unromantic Alan Brien (the least sentimental man in the world, as his wife Jill Tweedie said) thought it a strangely beguiling work.

Then I was asked to write Dodie Smith's biography by the novelist Julian Barnes, her literary executor.

I had imagined the dog-loving Dodie to be a sweet little old lady, the author of 1930s plays like *Dear Octopus*, later an admired autobiographer of her flapper-girl youth on the stage, and as a salesgirl at Heal's in the 1920s.

Early in 1991 I happened to be interviewing Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies on her 100th birthday, for *The Times*. After leaving her cottage I was driven back to Audley End station, and we passed a thatched cottage, closed and shuttered: "That was Dodie Smith's house." She had died six months before. "What happened to her last dalmatian?" I asked. I was told that Charley had died of a broken heart.

A few months later Julian Barnes rang. The hall of his house was now cluttered with Dodie's papers, to be shipped to Boston University. Carmen Callil, Julian said, wanted to publish a biography. She told me: "Read *I Capture the Castle*, then you'll do it."

She was right. I was captivated by so many others from page two, where Rose, the more beautiful of the two sisters who live in penury in a Suffolk castle, says she will go on the streets if necessary, to make some money, and Cassandra retorts briskly that she can't very well go on the streets in the depths of Suffolk. It was sharp and witty and full

of bizarre characters — and I knew that Dodie herself would be an interesting character. I did not realise how interesting. After reading all her books and meeting her surviving friends, I got to snowbound Boston in February 1994. Her diaries, which ran to millions of words, revealed that the lover she had called "Oliver" in her published memoirs was in fact Sir Ambrose Heal, the Terence Conran of his day. He already had a wife and a rather grand mistress, Lady Maufe, but Dodie told him shamelessly she would be content with "crumble from a rich man's table". The character of "a young girl poised between childhood and adultery" re-surfaced again and again in her novels.

There was also the fag-haggery. Dodie's circle of friends were almost all gay: Isherwood, John van Druten, Noel and Birkin etc. She preferred her menfolk untrammelled by wives and children — she never wanted children herself. Isherwood regarded her as one of the few people he could discuss his work with. When she came home from her long exile in America, she became fascinated by Julian Barnes, who arrived in 1969 at her cottage aged 22, a friend of her husband's half-sister Lauren: hence his literary executorship.

Several reviewers have remarked on what an unsympathetic creature Dodie was — selfish, egotistical, nagged by her lost fame and success when plays like *Dear Octopus* were superseded by angry young playwrights. But for a biographer this was a rich vein. It was in a state of furious resentment that she wrote *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* in 1956. When Disney bought it for his cartoon film, one of the most successful and money-spinning ever, it kept her going financially for years. And Pongo and Cruella de Vil have joined the immortals of children's literature.

There are two cheering postscripts to my story of a storyteller.

The first was that the moment I finished the book, I acquired a dalmatian puppy whom we named Beezie (Dodie's married name was Beezie) who happens to be the best-looking, best-natured dog in the world.

INSIDE SECTION  
2  
Drinking himself to an Oscar? Nicolas Cage's performance in *Leaving Las Vegas* is reviewed by Geoff Brown  
Page 37



Dodie Smith and Charley, her last dog: nagged by her lost fame, she wrote *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* in a state of furious resentment

the film was never made.

At last, while I was writing the book, Dodie's estate managed to exchange the rights to *Capture the Castle* for Disney's right to remake *101 Dalmatians*.

When I heard this, last February, I wrote to the film director, Mike Newell, who was in Hollywood because of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*'s Oscar nominations. I picked Newell because he had used my drawing-room to shoot a scene of a previous *succès d'ou* of his,

*Enchanted April*. I thought he dealt beautifully with Elizabeth von Arnim's exquisite novel about four women who leave dreary London for an Italian palazzo, and I thought he might work a similar translation to the screen for Dodie's oddly beguiling little masterpiece.

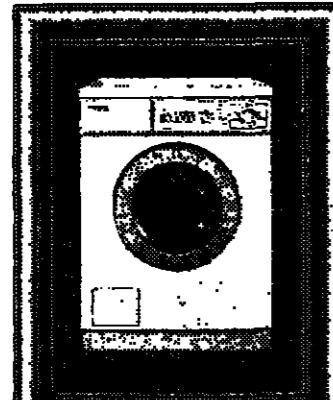
Last week I heard the thrilling news that Mark Shivas has secured *I Capture the Castle* as a feature film for BBC Films, and Mike Newell is indeed going to direct it. I wonder who will play the 17-year-old Cassandra? A terrific role for some budding mega-

star. (In 1954, when it had a brief run as a play at the Aldwych Theatre, Cassandra was played by Virginia McKenna, who won plaudits even from hard-hearted critics like Ken Tynan.)

We shall see. It is certainly going to be a very good year for Dodie Smith — her centenary year. And she would have loved seeing *I Capture the Castle* on screen at last.

• Dear Dodie by Valerie Grove is published this week by Chatto & Windus at £20. There is a Kaleidoscope Special on Dodie Smith on Radio 4, Saturday 7.30pm

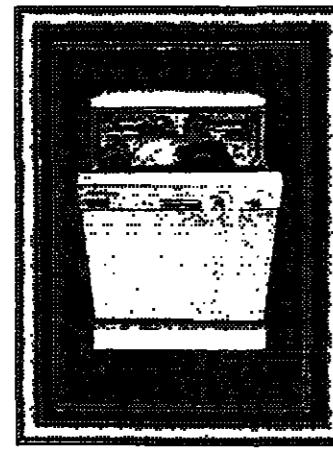
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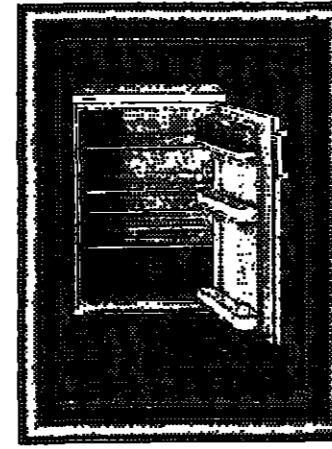
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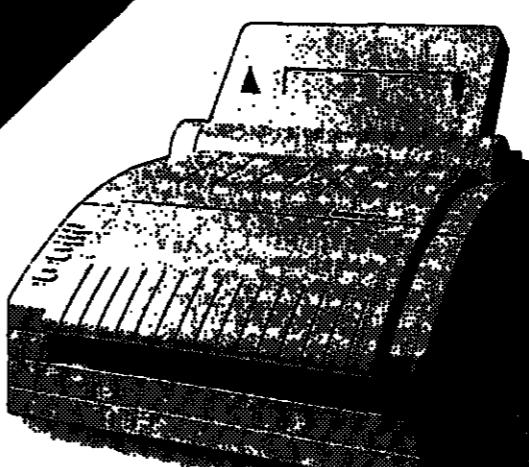
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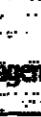
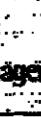
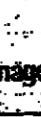
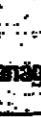
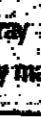
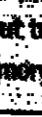
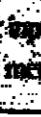
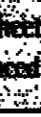
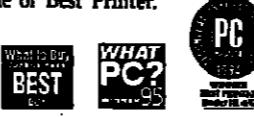
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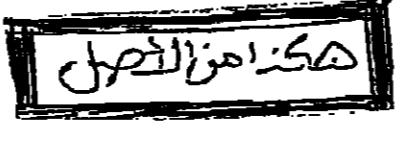
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## Profits at Stanley Leisure feel heat

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE BOOKMAKER'S nightmare — the favourite romping home every time — hit profit hard at the Stanley Leisure Organisation, the betting and casino group, which yesterday revealed a 25 per cent fall in its half-year profits to £6.1 million.

The company blamed the hot summer for hard racing surfaces, which favoured heavily backed horses and for keeping people away from betting shops. Profits in the racing division halved to £2.8 million on a turnover up 5 per cent to £145 million.

Stanley Leisure added that Sunday opening had not provided sufficient extra betting shop revenue to justify the extra cost, and it criticised the evening racing programme for being spread over too many days.

Like-for-like turnover declined with the company blaming lottery scratch cards for removing profitable turnover at the lower end of the business.

The casino division, however, bucked the downward trend, increasing profits by 23 per cent to £4.6 million and turnover by 20 per cent to £18.9 million.

Leonard Steinberg, chairman of Stanley Leisure, said: "The first half coincided with the worst six months in racing which I can recall in my many years in the industry. But despite losing all of the Christmas racing we consider that the worst is now over."

The City was disappointed with the performance and shares fell back 12p to 341p. But the interim dividend was maintained at 2p with the company expressing confidence about the future.

Stanley Leisure said that two new games had been introduced this year, with casino stud poker proving a great success although super poker has since been withdrawn.

Mr Steinberg also reiterated the gaming industry's plea for government action to ensure a level playing field in the wake of the introduction of the National Lottery.

Mr Steinberg described recent reforms, including a reduction in the betting levy, as welcome but insufficient.

The dividend will be paid on February 23.



Chipping in: Mike Kershaw, left, chief executive of Stanley Leisure, and Graham Gibson, managing director, at the company's Liverpool casino

## Small firms still wary in spite of better links with banks

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE overall relationship between banks and small businesses has improved dramatically since the hostilities at the beginning of the 1990s, but there is some way to go, according to Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

In a speech to be given at the Manchester Merchant and International Bankers' Association last night, Mr Davies said there were "some continuing difficulties, which make

it hard to say with confidence that, as a nation, we are getting the most out of the entrepreneurship evident in our small firms".

The Bank yesterday published its annual report on *Finance for Small Firms*, which showed, said Mr Davies, that in terms of the provision of finance for growth "there is both light and shade, though the picture is brighter than before."

Figures from the British Bankers' Association showed that £35.91 billion of bank finance was outstanding to small firms in June last year, confirming that banks remain important as the main source of external finance.

The lending figure was 0.8 per cent lower than the previous year, but the Bank report said this "does not necessarily imply a reluctance on behalf of the banks to lend, simply that small firms remain wary of committing themselves to debt

until they are more confident of the recovery".

The report showed that many firms are content to reduce existing overdrafts and "only to invest when the majority of costs can be met from internal funds". It also showed that banks had worked hard to encourage the use of fixed-term loans for longer-term purposes.

The Bank found that competition had pushed lending margins down, but that the

average bank lending margin remained at between 3 per cent and 4 per cent over base rate.

It also found "significant differences between average margins charged by the main clearing banks, reflecting to some extent different earnings aspirations from this market".

The report said in bank charges last year. But the report said that "high charges are still a source of small business complaints".

Mr Davies said small firms are no longer as "excessively reliant on variable rate overdrafts which left them vulnerable to the economic downturn of the early 1990s".

This year, the Bank plans to focus on initiatives to improve financial and management skills, on encouraging increased use of equity finance by growth-oriented small firms, and on monitoring the effectiveness of the government support scheme, Business Links, in meeting the requirements of small businesses for information and financial services.

## Fairey conducting US expansion

By PHILIP PANGALOS

FAIREY GROUP, the industrial electronics and specialist engineering company, is expanding in America with the acquisition of Particle Measuring Systems Inc for a total of \$75 million.

PMS, based in Boulder, Colorado, makes instruments for microcontamination particle detection, mainly used in the semiconductor industry, but also for kets. PMS, which has 250 employees, expects

its operating profit in 1995 to be at least \$8.5 million, on sales of about \$39 million. It had net assets of \$10.4 million at the end of 1994. About half of PMS's sales are exported, mainly to the Far East and Europe.

The purchase will be financed through the issue of 893,160 ordinary shares and a vendor placing of seven million Fairey shares, underwritten by Cazenove, at 525p a share, as well as from existing borrowing.

Fairey expects the acquisition to be earnings enhancing. Assuming continuing satisfactory trading, Fairey expects to recommend a final dividend of at least 5.45p.

John Poulter, chief executive, expects the group to benefit by building on PMS's strong position in the growing semiconductor market. He added: "PMS is an excellent addition to Fairey's electronics activities."

Fairey shares advanced 20p to 566p.

## Time to take fraud seriously

Tony Bingham on the need to go deep into the British psyche to combat a genuine business menace

Fraud is a big problem that threatens every company in the UK and the wider public. The Audit Faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales believes that more concerted action is needed if real progress is to be made controlling this menace.

Last week the faculty issued a discussion paper, *Taking Fraud Seriously*, and held a conference attended by those in the front line against fraud, including Government, business, regulators, lawyers, accountants and auditors.

The strong message from the conference was that more can and should be done to deter fraudsters and to catch, prosecute and punish them if they offend. While the law and regulations can be improved and strengthened in certain areas, rules and process are not enough. If the problem is to be tackled seriously, there has to be a more robust attitude towards fraud in British business life.

Directors must establish and maintain an anti-fraud culture in their organisations, communicating to management, employees and third parties that dishonesty and

corruption will not be tolerated.

A well-publicised anti-fraud policy should be supported by risk assessment and control measures in the risk areas. The board should provide secure reporting channels for employees and others to voice their concerns about suspected fraud. It should also make clear how cases of suspected fraud are investigated and how perpetrators are dealt with.

One element is essential: every employee has to understand that the anti-fraud culture applies equally at all levels. Directors and senior managers must be, and seen to be, subject to the same code as everyone else.

*Taking Fraud Seriously* recommends a Code of Business Practice on dealing with fraud, including what should be reported to the authorities, and the audit faculty intends to consult business organisations to take this forward.

The Government also needs to play its part. The Treasury



Tony Bingham wants to see an anti-fraud culture

and regulators such as the Stock Exchange.

Effective fraud prevention and detection will only start to happen when there is a more co-ordinated approach to sharing information and designing effective measures.

*Taking Fraud Seriously* recommends

reviewing the law relating to dishonesty. There is a strong case for change and consolidation of civil and criminal law on fraud to make it more understandable and effective.

Specific legal changes would make prosecution easier and deter fraudsters. For instance, strengthening the law against knowingly misleading an auditor by extending section 389A of the Companies Act 1985 to cover anyone within the company rather than just a company "officer", and increasing the maximum custodial sentence from two to five years.

Carefully auditors have a key role. The training and education of auditors has to be enhanced to ensure that they have the skills to meet their anti-fraud duties. But the auditor's attitude of challenge and scepticism is the key.

The audit faculty is convinced that the robustness of the external audit function must be maintained and enhanced. The conference helped to articulate auditors' determination to join with others to achieve a step-change in reducing the effects of fraud.

*Taking Fraud Seriously* is available from the Audit Faculty, ICAEW, PO Box 433, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2RJ.

Tony Bingham is a partner in Coopers & Lybrand and chairman of the technical and practical auditing committee of the Audit Faculty.

Deloitte & Touche: "No money crossed the table," said a spokesman.

### Junk TV

THE BBC children's programme, *Blue Peter*, aims to raise more than £500,000 for its "Paperchain" appeal by collecting 5,000 tonnes of high-grade household junk mail and other waste paper. Why am I telling you this? Simple.

The charity accounting experts at Mores Rowland are monitoring the volume of waste collected. Presumably, no one has raided the partners' out-trays.

### Where watching figures is out

THE English ICA has a revolutionary ICA has a basement. Deep beneath its Moorgate Place headquarters is a restaurant named after Prudential. Speaking at a recent event organised by recruitment consultants Robert Half, she revealed her views on business plans. And they were not the things that Moorgate Place would recognise. Her best advice came from fellow luminary, Albert Roux. "He said: 'Look, it's perfectly

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

simple, forget about the budgets, targets, plans and all that garbage, accountants tell you'." The results of this advice can be tested by accountants beneath their own headquarters. Expect "humbug pie" to appear on the menu very shortly.

### Foresight

AT LAST week's English ICA fraud conference, Mark Sheldon of Linklaters & Paines quoted Jude remarks about

corporate governance that Lord Young of Graffham had made at a conference. "We have to take this seriously," said Sheldon, "because Lord Young is a prescient man. We know this because at the same conference he also said, 'If I do not succeed with my colleagues, the institutions will not waste much time in sending the men in grey suits to tell me I should spend more time with my family'."

A jubilant Sheldon concluded: "One month later, they did."

### Brand of gold

BRAND names seem to have lost their value. Once, firms such as Coopers & Lybrand were gung-ho about the pot of gold that brand names could represent. But this week they let one of their own go for free, and ahead of time — the name Deloitte. As from last Monday, Touche Ross has become

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Accountants receive lower salary awards

ACCOUNTANTS are commanding pay rises of between 2 per cent and 4 per cent — largely in line with inflation — compared with close to 6 per cent in the second half of 1994. Trainees and newly qualified accountants saw average rises of 3 per cent in the second half of 1995, according to a survey by Hays Accountancy Personnel. The exception are specialists such as senior tax managers, who have seen increases of 7.5 per cent.

Finance salaries are not putting pressure on inflation as the rate of increase averages 3.55 per cent, lower than the 5.9 per cent increases seen in the second half of 1994. A management accountant in northern England can expect to earn between £20,000 and £30,000, compared with £20,000 and £40,000 for a similar post in central London. KPMG, Britain's biggest auditor, is poised to disclose the earnings of its partners for the first time. The figures are due by the end of the month.

### UK Land advances

UK LAND, the property investment company, lifted pre-tax profits to £590,000 from £353,000 in the six months to the end of September. Earnings per share rose from 4.5p to 6.1p. The company does not pay an interim dividend. The results incorporated six weeks' income and expenses from the Minerva House office development in Nottingham, which was bought in August of last year for £15 million. The company said the Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre in South London continues to perform well, with gross income that is running at £2.45 million a year.

### Irish Continental up

PROFITS at Irish Continental Group, the Dublin ferries and port services company, rose to £16.03 million (Ir£19.32 million) in the year to October 31. With turnover almost unchanged at Ir£16.4 million (Ir£16.8 million), the increase reflects a reduction in operating costs and a £1.1 million credit from asset sales (Ir£449,000). Earnings were Ir4.27p. Up from Ir4.02p. The total dividend is lifted to Ir4.5p a share from Ir3.6p, with a final Ir3p due March 29. The company reported a 2.3 per cent rise in the number of passengers on the UK to Ireland ferry routes to 1.12 million, with a firm second half compensating for disruption in the first half.

### Nobo maintains payout

NOBO GROUP, the supplier of visual displays, is maintaining the interim dividend at 2.20p a share after suffering a decline in pre-tax profits to £880,000 from £1 million in the half-year to October 31. Turnover advanced to £23.5 million from £15.3 million, reflecting a contribution from acquisitions, but operating profits were little changed at £1.27 million (Ir£1.25 million). Interest charges rose to £385,000 from £220,000. Earnings fell to 4.01p a share from 5.79p. The shares rose 3p to 129p. Roger Cowlin, chief executive, said optimism for the future was tempered by "the varying weaknesses of the European economies".

### Dudley Jenkins ahead

DUDLEY JENKINS GROUP, the supplier of products and services to the direct mail industry, said it had made a strong start to the second half, enjoying strong demand for its databases. The company lifted profits to £565,000 before tax from £512,000 in the six months to the end of October on turnover that increased to £9.12 million from £7.17 million. Earnings rose to 3p a share from 2.85p. The interim dividend is increased to 1.155p a share from 1p, payable on April 10. The shares were unchanged at 99p.

## Should auditors blow the whistle?

EVEN the Queen knows about the expectation

gap that auditors have created. According to Roger Davis, head of audit at Coopers & Lybrand, he found himself at an event organised by a charity for which Coopers did the audit. Introduced to the charity's patron, Her Majesty, he was asked what he did. "I am the auditor," he said. "Ah," said Her Majesty, "you find the frauds."

If you are an auditor, the normal response to this is a frenzied retreat into arcane legal arguments about duties, culminating in a denial that auditors have any responsibility for detecting fraud. Being an urbane soul, Mr Davis did not, apparently, burden Her Majesty with such arguments — he doesn't believe in them anyway — but it is a fine example of just how far from public opinion the auditing profession's view has strayed.

Mr Davis's revelations came at the fraud conference organised last week by the Audit Faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. This followed the publication by the

faculty of a series of proposals to limit fraud. It is a difficult topic. Auditors traditionally arrive at such debates with one arm tied behind their backs. They know that measures such as reporting on the effectiveness of internal controls would improve the detection of fraud. But they also know that lawyers stand in their way.

Mr Davis revealed that Coopers' letter of engagement covering the issue of the Cadbury Code alone entailed eight pages of closely typed legal jargon, which its lawyers insisted it had to produce.

He then argued that auditors must be much more prepared to put their names to assurances of good corporate governance. But he added that this could not currently be so because it was "scared stiff of litigation".

Mr Davis argued passionately, but it is hard to avoid the view that much of this reluctance is as much to do with auditors living in a world of their own as any real aversion to putting their thumb print on a document. Later in the day, Kuldip Singh, QC, warned that "it is very important that any proposal for reform from the profession is not seen as special pleading merely for the benefit of members of the profession".

Adding his voice, Mark Sheldon, former senior partner at Linklaters & Paines and a member of the original Cadbury committee, said it was "notoriously difficult to get a satisfactory result. None of us is likely to be as sure of what is right and what is wrong after months of lawyers demonstrating tangled webs of inter-connecting companies. Journalists have trouble in such circumstances in sticking to the first principle of 'follow the money'. Juries can be baffled.

Strengthening Section 389A solves all that.

Providing that someone has deceived the auditor involves little more than two sheets of paper and a half-hour explanation.

At present, no one bothers to prosecute because the maximum sentence of two years is not thought to be tough enough.

Simple, says the audit faculty, increase it to five years and get on with some speedy prosecutions.

ROBERT BRUCE

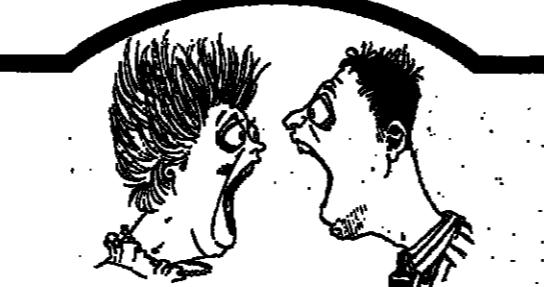
ROBERT BRUCE

ESTATE AND TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

# Modest falls at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Last Company	Price Adj	Yield %	PE Ratio	High Low Last Company	Price Adj	Yield %	PE Ratio	High Low Last Company	Price Adj	Yield %	PE Ratio	High Low Last Company	Price Adj	Yield %	PE Ratio
<b>BANKS</b>															
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>															
<b>BREWRIES</b>															
<b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT</b>															
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>															
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>															
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>															
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>															
<b>EMERGENT &amp; ELECTRONIC</b>															
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>															
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>															
<b>INDUSTRY</b>															
<b>INSURANCE</b>															
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>															
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>															
<b>SHORTS (under 5 years)</b>															
<b>LONGS (over 15 years)</b>															
<b>MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)</b>															
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL</b>															
<b>RETAILERS, FOOD</b>															
<b>TRANSPORT</b>															
<b>WATER</b>															



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Stansted's main terminal has been open for five years, writes Harvey Elliott. But the airport has yet to attract the transatlantic airlines

## The fastest-growing airport in Britain

When the planners and the pundits of the early 1980s were asked to imagine how Stansted airport would have developed by 1996, they were of one accord:

It would be a sleek, easy-and-efficient airport handling mainly long-haul international flights. These would be matched by dozens of short-haul international charter flights as package tour operators switched from Gatwick to the Essex base, where parking was easier and cheaper.

BAA, its owner and operator, listened and designed a new terminal to match. Outbound and inbound passengers were separated so that techniques for dealing with large numbers of international flights could be installed.

No one gave much thought to domestic passengers. Yet today, five years after the opening of the bright and airy terminal, designed by Sir Norman Foster, it is the domestic network which is making Stansted the fastest-growing airport in Britain.

In 1995, Stansted handled 3.89 million passengers, an increase of 19.4 per cent on the previous year. For the 12 months to the end of January, there will have been well over 4 million passengers, including 750,000 using British or Irish flights, double the number for last year.

The growth has been so great that BAA is appealing to Parliament to allow the airport to grow so that it can handle 15 million a year, almost double its existing permitted limit of 8 million.

Terry Morgan, Stansted's managing director, says: "The big demand has been for domestic passengers, who are now having to use terminals which were not designed for them. If we can get the increase in overall capacity, we would have the confidence to spend up to £100 million in building a domestic terminal."

This is music to the ears of both Air UK and Ryanair, airlines which have made Stansted their home airport. Air UK, for example, serves 20 destinations from Stansted, including 14 key European cities and each of the major cities in the UK's own domestic network. Its routes to and from Stansted were the fastest-



□ Families can enjoy a free day at Stansted airport this Sunday and next (January 21, 28), 10am to 4pm. Parking is free in the long-stay car park for three hours. There will be music, children's activities, prizes and a free holiday draw.

growing, rising to 1.4 million passengers in 1995 — 24 per cent up on the previous year.

Ryanair carried 988,000 passengers through Stansted in 1995 on its 11-strong fleet of Boeing 737s. It is now drawing up plans to operate from Stansted to the bigger cities on the Continent and to increase its UK domestic routes.

Privately, Stansted officials admit that they have been disappointed that the big long-haul airlines have not been able to make a financial success of the airport. Several have tried. Mr Morgan says: "Realistically, we have to accept that United, American and most of the other big transatlantic carriers have their eyes on Heathrow. Our priority now must be to attract a big European carrier and to develop the routes from Stansted. Then, when a large carrier decides to come in, it will find a network of connecting flights ready and waiting."

El Al operates to New York from Tel Aviv via Stansted and apparently finds the market both vibrant and profitable. Others, it is hoped, will follow, especially new carriers from Eastern Europe.

The real breakthrough is,

full year of operation, 1991. Stansted lost £30 million. In the current financial year it is likely to lose £10 million. Officials believe that the airport will be making a profit within 18 months.

The charges for airlines to land and park led rival airports to challenge Stansted's policies in the courts, claiming that it was being unfairly subsidised by its parent group.

"We have to try to balance between the need to attract airlines to Stansted and the need to charge fees which will bring us to profit as soon as possible," Mr Morgan says. "Even if we were not part of the BAA group, we would still do the same as we are today."

That Stansted is now growing faster than any other major commercial airport in Britain cannot be in doubt. It is particularly attractive to charter airlines passengers and its fast train link to Liverpool Street station makes it a natural centre for domestic services.

What Stansted needs is a giant airline to move in and turn it into a great international airport. A scheduled European "flag-carrier" would be a start. To judge by the pace of development in the airport, that could happen at any time.



Terry Morgan, right, MD of Stansted, and Brian Beal, of Air Belfast, celebrate the improved domestic air links

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# The American dream comes true

El Al, the Israeli carrier, has just confirmed that it will continue with its transatlantic service this summer from Stansted to Newark airport, New York. The route was launched last October and early indications are that it will be a success.

The decision is a great boost for Stansted because the New Jersey airport provides its only transatlantic link, something the airport has needed to maintain its credibility as London's third airport.

Hopes were initially high in the early 1990s that Stansted would relieve pressure on Heathrow and Gatwick, take-off and landing "slots" by offering a number of transatlantic services. But American Airlines, which started a Stansted to Chicago service in 1992, was forced to pull out a year later after demand from business travellers proved disappointing. Since then, expecta-

El Al has made the vital US link, David Churchill says

tions have been raised that another leading carrier, such as Delta or TWA, would move to Stansted and provide a New York service. But these hopes have been dashed by the stagnating UK-US bilateral talks regulating flights between the two countries.

American carriers are reluctant to use Stansted when the possibility of gaining far more lucrative Heathrow slots remains open.

Another American carrier, Tower Air, had been keen to divert its India-Amsterdam-New York route via Stansted, thus creating a new service. But because this would require Tower Air to gain British

permission for flying the India leg of the journey, Tower Air is understood to have decided against applying for the route.

Terry Morgan, Stansted airport's managing director, believes that it is better to have a firm agreement with American carriers before starting a new service. He says: "We don't want the legacy of the American Airlines experience, where carriers come in and pull out again. That is too unstable a situation."

The El Al service, however, is not covered by the US bilateral talks, so it is a bonus for Stansted. The thrice-weekly service, using Boeing 757s and sometimes Boeing 747s, is also one of the cheapest ways of getting to New York. The present economy return fare is £167, plus £26 tax, although the business-class fares are comparable with those charged by other airlines.

The service also has another

angle for Stansted in that it additionally provides a route, albeit roundabout, to Tel Aviv as the plane continues its journey from New York to the Israeli capital.

Attracting a big transatlantic carrier is difficult, so Mr Morgan is concentrating on gaining more European routes for Stansted. Starting in April, for example, is a new

four-times-a-week service to Prague operated by Czech Airlines, which already has flights from Heathrow and Gatwick — "another example of how European airlines are recognising the value of a Stansted service as well," says Mr Morgan.

Stansted operates scheduled services to 41 destinations, and carriers ranging from Aeroflot

(twice-weekly to St Petersburg in Russia) to the Romanian airline Tarom (to Bucharest once a week). In all, 14 airlines run scheduled services from Stansted, including the Iranian service British Airways Express, flying to Manchester and Waterford in Ireland.

Most intriguing is probably the weekly service to Cuba — the only scheduled service

from Britain to the communist state — operated by Cubana. Other scheduled carriers include Air Excel, Aviaco, Finnair, Luxair and Proteus.

More than 600,000 passengers — about 15 per cent of the total — flew last year on domestic scheduled services, more than half on business trips. But only just over a quarter of those on inter-

national flights are flying on business; the rest are travelling on leisure.

Stansted's charter operations — in the minority for most of the year, but which come into their own during the summer months — also offer a wide range of holiday destinations, mainly to Europe's sun spots. There are hopes for more flights to America.

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that it can compete with British Airways and British Midland.

He says: "Our growth shows that the British public is increasingly following the American lead and treating short-haul domestic and European flights almost routinely."

Mr Le Masurier also confirms that Air UK has no plans to change its one-class service.

"We have found no pressing demand for a business class cabin," he says. The Sterling Service provides hot or cold meals depending on the flight time, and complimentary drinks and newspapers. But 26,000 frequent fliers with Air UK qualify for an Executive Card, which gives access to lounges, a telephone check-in service and a pre-flight choice of seat. Card-holders are also given membership of KLM's Flying Dutchman frequent-flier programme.

DAVID CHURCHILL

Local environmental groups are concerned at its continued expansion. They have seen Stansted develop as London's third airport, although it was not considered a priority by the commission, headed by Lord Roskill, which investigated the best site for an additional airport to Heathrow and Gatwick in the early 1970s. Its role was finally confirmed by a public inquiry in 1985. Their worst fear is that Stansted will get a second runway, which would blight parts of Essex. Mr Astor insists their fears are groundless.

"The existing runway," he says, "will handle at least 35 million passengers a year and we are talking of expanding to 15 million at the moment."

The airport management is also keen to reassure residents about pollutants, including hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, emitted by vehicles, power plants and jets. Officials monitored air quality at 40 sites on and around the airport and found that the highest pollution levels were caused by road — not air — traffic.

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scenes of the  
cargo carriers

**C**loth from Turkey, flowers from Colombia, grapes from South Africa and racehorses returning from Jordan are just some of the goods which arrive regularly at Stansted airport and have helped to turn it into Britain's third-busiest cargo airport.

They are carried aboard 200 weekly flights operated by a variety of aircraft, from old four-engined turbo-prop Lockheed Electras to McDonnell Douglas's latest twin-engined long-haul MD 11s. A regular sight at Stansted are the giant Russian Antonov 124 freighters, which can carry 150-tonne loads and are the only aircraft big enough to transport the engines for the new Boeing 777s.

Operated by HeavyLift Cargo Airlines, the Antonovs might arrive with vast pieces of engineering equipment but they often leave with gentler loads intended to alleviate suffering in countries ravaged by war or disaster.

In the run-up to Christmas, they were working for a charity which collected gifts and practical items in shoeboxes to be taken, 100,000 of them at a time, to Bosnia and Rwanda.

The staple fare of Stansted's world cargo centre, however, is mail and express parcels. Every night, more than a dozen flights, operated by airlines like Channel Express, head for Belfast, Edinburgh, Newcastle and other airports north and west with the mail.

They are followed by services to major European cities operated by TNT Express Worldwide, which uses Stansted as a collecting point for its European fast parcels service, and by flights to France, Germany and the United States, operated by Federal Express.

"The expansion of the FedEx operation and the arrival of TNT from Luton are largely responsible for the astonishing growth in our cargo traffic over the last couple of years," says Tony Astor, Stansted's cargo manager.



Lift-off: an engine for a Boeing 777 is loaded aboard a 124 Antonov freighter

Among new cargo services starting soon are a weekly Royal Jordanian Airlines flight to Amman and a twice-weekly service to Tel Aviv operating with a British Airways flight number.

Unlike Heathrow, which handles the largest amount of air cargo in Britain with most of it travelling in the holds of passenger aircraft, almost all Stansted's cargo travels in freighters. The cargo centre can accommodate up to six jumbo freighters at any one time and provides 15,000 square metres of warehouses to store the goods.

**B**oth TNT and Federal Express have their own transit sheds while two more are run by Servisair and GHL, the Stansted offshoot of Gatwick Handling, which between them look after dozens of airlines.

Stansted is also linked to Cargo Community System UK, the computer-based Customs clearance and documentation system which serves all three London airports and is used by hundreds of forwarding agents throughout the country.

The system enables agents to track cargo consignments through every stage of their journey, from point of origin to final destination, with Cus-

toms procedures and documentation handled automatically.

The facilities and space at Stansted encourage outside shippers to use it. Last week, a consignment of classic cars, including Rolls-Royces and Ferraris, was awaiting collection in the Servisair shed, having arrived by sea at

Felixstowe from the United States. "They gave us something new to admire," said Fred Cracknell, Servisair's cargo co-ordinator. "But there was no way we could have stored them before Christmas; the shed was full of hundreds of tonnes of grapes, other foods, clothes and flowers heading for the shops."



Buying magazines and books — an important part of Stansted's check-in area

added which will enable arrivals passengers to stock up on groceries before returning home.

The restaurant in the departure lounge is being redeveloped and there are ideas for a pub and an additional coffee shop there.

Local people and airport staff can also make use of seven shops in the check-in area. A store is also being

free shop. Malt whisky, gin and vodka sell at up to 50 per cent off manufacturer's recommended prices, with perfumes up to 30 per cent cheaper.

The Historical Research Centre provides waiting passengers with the chance to buy a computer-generated coat of arms which can be framed on the spot.

All Stansted's retail outlets are covered by the BAA guarantee, which promises a full refund from anywhere in the world if a passenger is not satisfied with any product bought from an airport shop. Children are not forgotten. Entertainment centres, called Funbase, offer electronic and video games.

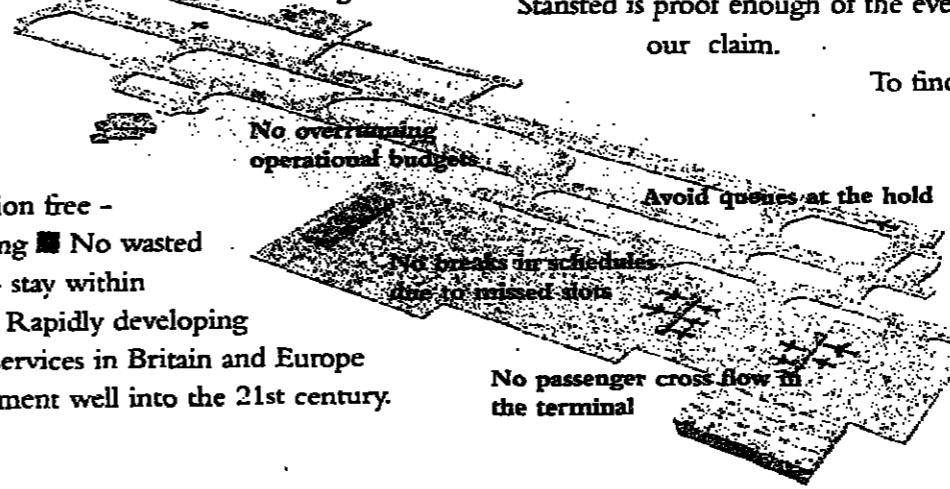
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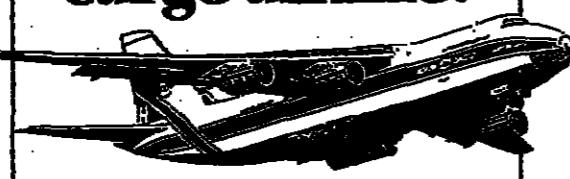
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## Law Report January 18 1996 Court of Appeal

## Automatic directions timetable prevails over that in form

**Williams v Globe Coaches and Another****Darby v Ginsters Cornish Pasties Ltd**

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Onon [Judgment December 18]

The timetable for the operation of the automatic directions prescribed by Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687 (L20)), as substituted by rule 14 of the County Court (Amendment No 3) Rules (SI 1990 No 1704 (L17)) prevailed over any different timetable indicated on Form N450 by the court when acting in its administrative capacity and sending that form to the parties.

Where, however, a plaintiff had been misled by reliance on the timetable indicated on the form and in consequence had not requested a hearing date within the period specified by the rules as he would otherwise have done, so that his action had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) the court would ordinarily accede to his application for reinstatement without requiring him to satisfy the exacting conditions specified in the different situation where a plaintiff having failed to comply with a date prescribed by the rules, was at mercy.

The Court of Appeal so held:

(i) allowing an appeal by the plaintiff.

Susan Williams, from Judge Michael Burr, at Cardiff County Court, who had held that her action claiming damages for personal injuries against Globe Coaches and Peter Evans had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) on June 5, 1994 and should not be reinstated; and

(ii) allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Julia Darby, from Judge Wigmore, at Plymouth County Court, who had affirmed an order of the district judge declaring that her action claiming damages for personal injuries against Ginsters Cornish Pasties Ltd had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) on June 6, 1994 and that her request made by letter of September 22, 1994 for a hearing date was out of time and had dismissed her application for an extension of time for setting down the action.

First action: Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Ian Bullock for the plaintiff; Mr James Bell for the defendants.

Second action: Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Adam Chippindall for the plaintiff; Mr John Royce, QC and Mr Richard Stead for the defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that under Order 17, rule 11(9) the automatic timetable ran from the date on which pleadings were deemed to be closed. That date, defined in rule 11(1), was 14 days after delivery of a defence in

accordance with Order 9, rule 2, or, where a counterclaim was served with the defence, 38 days after delivery of the defence.

That date, the trigger date, was of fundamental importance since it triggered the operation of the timetable. If no request was made to the proper officer to fix a hearing day within 15 months of the trigger date, the action would be automatically struck out under rule 11(9). The 15-month date, the guillotine date, in the absence of any other order by the court, was the date on which the guillotine fell.

His Lordship referred to County Court *Court Practice* 1995 (pp214) entitled "Notice that automatic directions apply" which was sent by the county court to the parties after delivery of the defence and gave guidance on the steps to be completed with under the automatic directions.

In particular, the form provided for the insertion of a date and stated that the automatic directions began 14 days after the date so inserted or 28 days thereafter if a counterclaim was filed with the defence.

The form had been approved by the Lord Chancellor or his department, but was not prescribed since no county court rule required such a notice to be served nor specified its contents.

Its object was, however, reasonably

plaint to alert recipients to the timetable, to remind them of the effect of Order 17, rule 11, to encourage compliance with the automatic directions regime and to alert them to the sanction if no hearing date was requested within the time limit.

The form was sent routinely from county courts to litigants without any judicial intervention or decision. In such cases the sending of the form did not involve any exercise of the court's jurisdiction by a judge or a district judge. It was merely an administrative act. In each case here there was a clear finding by the judge that the form had been despatched in that way.

Accordingly there could not be said to be any giving of directions by the court under Order 17, rule 11(2)(b) or any different directions or orders under rule 11(4).

His Lordship referred to the first case, in which proceedings had been issued in Plymouth County Court in January 1993. After delivery of the defence to the county court, on February 19, issued Form N450, inserting that date and giving the impression that the trigger date was 14 days thereafter, and June 5, 1994 the guillotine date.

After the proceedings were transferred to Cardiff County Court that court on October 6 issued a further Form N450 specifying that date. Under that form, the trigger date would have been 14 days thereafter and the guillotine date

15 months later. On September 22, 1994, after the guillotine date calculated by reference to the first Form N450 but before that calculated by reference to the automatic directions regime and to alert them to the sanction if no hearing date was requested within the time limit.

The form was sent routinely from county courts to litigants without any judicial intervention or decision. In such cases the sending of the form did not involve any exercise of the court's jurisdiction by a judge or a district judge. It was merely an administrative act. In each case here there was a clear finding by the judge that the form had been despatched in that way.

On the plaintiff's application for a declaration that the action had not been struck out, alternatively for its reinstatement, the judge accepted the evidence of the legal executive who handled the matter that she had relied on the timetable to be derived from the second form and had accordingly been misled.

The questions therefore were:

(i) When, under the rules, was the action automatically struck out?

(ii) If it had been struck out before the second guillotine date, on what terms if any should it be reinstated?

The answer was that Lord Justice Onon had been misled by the document received from the county court into believing that the timetable ran from a later date than it in fact did, and as a result had failed to request a hearing date which he would otherwise have done.

That was not a situation which the court had had in mind in *Rustin*, it was altogether different and different considerations of fairness had to be taken into account.It would be unfair if a plaintiff who had failed foul of the rules as a result of relying on an apparently clear and unequivocal document sent by the county court itself was to be obliged to satisfy the exacting conditions of reinstatement specified in *Rustin*.

Accordingly in the ordinary way and in the absence of special circumstances the court should be willing to reinstate the action, although it was to be emphasised that it was an essential condition of reinstatement that the plaintiff had actually been misled.

Turning to the second case proceedings had been issued on April 6, 1993 and a defence delivered on or about May 12, 1993. Accordingly the trigger date was June 7, 1993 and the guillotine date September 7, 1994.

The date specified on Form N450 was June 9, 1993 from which June 23 would be derived as the trigger date, and September 23, 1994 as the guillotine date. Between the two guillotine dates application had been made to extend time.

It accordingly followed from the decision in the first case that the timetable prescribed by the rules had remained in effect but that in all the circumstances it would be appropriate to reinstate the action.

The appeals would therefore be allowed and the actions reinstated.

Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Onon agreed.

Solicitors: Lyons Davidson, Bristol; Cole &amp; Cole, Reading; Blight, Broad &amp; Skinnard, Saltash; Cartwrights, Bristol.

## County court actions struck out by passage of time under new rule

**Gardner v Southwark London Borough Council King v East Cambridgeshire District Council and Another****Thompson v Wickens Building Group Ltd**

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Onon [Judgment December 18]

Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981, as substituted, providing for the automatic striking out of an action for failure to request a hearing date within the period specified by the rules was not analogous to a peremptory order of the court nor was a plaintiff who had failed to comply with the automatic directions so as to suffer automatic strike out to be treated as though he were guilty of contumacious disobedience to a court order.

Where, therefore, a plaintiff's action was automatically struck out by operation of that rule, his commencement of a fresh action claiming the same relief against the same defendants within the same limitation period did not amount to an abuse of the court's process.

The Court of Appeal so held:

(i) allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Charles Gardner, from Judge Cox at Lambeth County Court who had struck out his action against the defendants, Southwark London Borough Council and Walter Lawrence Management Ltd, for damages for negligence and/or breach of statutory duty as an abuse of the court's process.

(ii) allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Patricia King, from Judge Simpson at the Mayor and City of London County Court, who had struck out her personal injuries action against the defendants, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Flanders Brothers Ltd, as an abuse of the court's process.

(iii) granting leave to appeal and allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Pamela Thompson, executrix of the estate of the late Alan Thompson, from Mr Assistant Recorder Eversall, QC, at Southampton County Court, who had struck out an action commenced within the limitation period for damages for personal injuries against the defendants, Wickens Building Group Ltd, as an abuse of the court's process.

(iv) granting leave to appeal and allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Roberta Roberts, from Mr Justice Aylén, QC and Mr Alan Smith for the plaintiff; Mr Victor Levine for the first defendants.

Third action: Mr Guy Mansfield, QC and Mr David Westcott, neither of whom appeared, for the plaintiff; Mr Andrew Miller for the first defendants.

The Court of Appeal so held:

(i) granting leave to appeal and allowing an appeal by the defendant, National Westminster Bank plc, from Judge Simpson, at the Mayor and City of London County Court, who had held that the action by the plaintiff, Pamela Lightfoot, had not been struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9);

(ii) allowing an appeal by the defendant, Mr H. T. Holmes from Judge Fish, at Manchester County Court, who had allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Trevor Roberts, from the district judge who had held that the plaintiff's personal injury action, having been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981;

(iii) allowing an appeal by the defendant, Mr T. H. Holmes from Judge Fish, at Manchester County Court, who had allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Trevor Roberts, from the district judge who had held that the plaintiff's personal injury action, having been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981;

(iv) allowing an appeal by the defendant, Northern Clubs Federation Brewery Ltd, from Judge Cawood, QC, at Newcastle upon Tyne County Court, who had affirmed the decision of the district judge that the plaintiff's representative had failed to perform that duty, and accordingly the plaintiff's action had not been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) despite the expiry of the 15-month time limit.

His Lordship preferred Mr Aylén's submission that the analogy drawn between failure to comply with the automatic directions and disobedience of the court was not tenable. It was a novelty in English jurisprudence and had been heralded as a measure introduced with a view to stopping the scandal of delay; that therefore it should be given at every opportunity the teeth it was intended to have.

He had urged that to allow opportunities for bringing the second action would be seriously to undermine the severity of what was intended to be a stern measure.

His Lordship preferred Mr Aylén's submission. No contumacy, no contumacious conduct and no contempt or defiance of the court was involved in the process of suffering an automatic strike out of proceedings. The circumstances might show dilatoriness or lack of excuse as to disqualify a plaintiff from having the action reinstated on the principles approved in *Rustin v British Steel plc* (1994) 1 WLR 732.

But that was a long way from saying that such a shortcoming

amounted to disobedience or defiance such as occurred in failure to comply with an unwise order.

In the former case the mere march of time past the milestones set in the automatic directions programme had deprived the plaintiff of his action.

In the latter case the court made an order specifically addressed to the plaintiff, demanding performance of a step which, if disobeyed, amounted to a contempt of court and became the subject of the punitive sanction of dismissal of the suit.

The discretion to strike out for abuse was never excluded, and, as Mr Aylén had submitted, was retained to deal with exceptional circumstances.

Having reached that conclusion the same result followed in the second and third cases.

Lord Justice Onon agreed.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, agreeing, said that the word "delivered" was used frequently and consistently in the plaintiff's pleadings but had not been used uniformly of the dependency of the guillotine date. In an endeavour to avoid its consequences they had issued an application for an extension of time two days before the guillotine date.

On the hearing, which took place after the guillotine date, the parties had agreed to treat the application as one for reinstatement. That application had been dismissed on the principles enunciated in *Rustin v British Steel plc* (1994) 1 WLR 732.However since then the Court of Appeal in *Ferreira v American Embassy Employees Association* (The Times June 30, 1995) had held that an application for an extension made to avoid automatic strike out was to be treated as necessarily implying an alternative application for the fixing of a hearing day.

Thus where Order 17, rule 11(1)(a) referred to "delivery" it was to be construed in the same way.

The basic principle of construction applied that the same word should be given the same meaning throughout.

"Delivery" always referred to the defendant, and envisaged him lodging the documents with the court. There was not a two-stage process which was perfectly valid.

The discretion was to be construed as though he were guilty of

contumacious disobedience to a court order.

That was not a ground on which the plaintiff could be precluded from bringing the second action, but it might afford grounds for restraining him from pursuing it until he had paid his debts.

Solicitors: Gordon Doctors &amp; Walton, Walworth; Worsey Morris &amp; Kennedy, Sidcup and Greenwich.

Russell Jones &amp; Walker, Ipswich.

Lamport &amp; Bassett, Southampton.

C. A. Norris, Ringwood.

## Meaning of "deliver"

**Lightfoot v National Westminster Bank plc****Roberts v British Telecommunications plc****Roberts v Hollins**

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Onon [Judgment December 19]

The word "deliver" bore the same meaning in Order 9, rule 2(6) and Order 17, rule 11(1) of the County Court Rules 1981 and signified the delivery of the documents to the court.

That might be a sensible, convenient and economical practice to it was plainly contrary to Order 9, rule 2(7) which imposed a mandatory duty, which was not at liberty to neglect, to send a copy to the plaintiff.

While it was clear that the plaintiff's action was to be struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) it was not clear that the plaintiff's appeal had been dismissed on the basis of non-compliance with the rules.

Lord Justice Waite agreed.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, agreeing, said that from the evidence it appeared that it was the practice of some county courts not to send a copy of the defence to the plaintiff where the defendant delivered the defence to the court.

From that authority, which was binding on the present court, it was clear that the plaintiff's appeal had

been dismissed on the basis of non-compliance with the rules.

That was not an excuse.

Lord Justice Waite agreed.

Solicitors: Marrons, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mr B. K. J. Lewis, Manchester.

ruary 16, the trigger date was accordingly March 3, and the guillotine date June 3, 1994, when the action had been automatically struck out.

Any court approaching the question of excuse would do so as dispassionately and fairly as possible after, but not before, the mind of the judge had been directed to the overview of the case afforded by consideration of issues of reasonable diligence see *Hoskins v Wiggins Teape (UK) Ltd* (1994) PIQR P57.

There was no ground on which the court could interfere with the judge's conclusion. It was a finding of fact which the court had been asked to make.

Mr D. J. B. Trotter for the plaintiff; Mr Timothy Briden for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the plaintiff's advisers had not been unaware of the dependency of the guillotine date. In an endeavour to avoid its consequences they had issued an application for an extension of time two days before the guillotine date.

On the hearing, which took place after the guillotine date, the parties had agreed to treat the application as one for reinstatement. That application had been dismissed on the basis of non-compliance with the rules.

The plaintiff's appeal had been dismissed on the basis of non-compliance with the rules.

That was not an excuse.

Lord Justice Onon agreed.

Solicitors: Daybells, Stratford; Jarvis &amp; Bannister, Kennedy.

## Threshold tests for diligence

**Reville v Wright**

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Onon [Judgment December 20]

On an application for reinstatement of an action which had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11(9) of the County Court Rules 1981 for failure to request a hearing date within the prescribed time limit it was for the plaintiff to satisfy the court that (i) the proceedings had been conducted with at least reasonable diligence, as measured by the timetable of the automatic directions regime and (ii) his failure to comply with the rule was

not amount to an abuse of the rules.

The judge had made no finding that there was no excuse and no evidence of an excuse.

His Lordship referred to the solicitor's frank admission of his fault contained in his affidavit. That had caused his Lordship some anxiety. At best it revealed oversight of the new automatic directions regime and the consequences of non-adherence to it.

The question of proof or of the existence of just cause not to strike out was for the judge to consider.

His Lordship referred to the solicitor's statement that he had not been misled by the affidavit.

That was not an excuse.

His Lordship referred to the solicitor's statement that he had been misled by the affidavit.

That was not an excuse.





## ■ OPERA 1

Covent Garden presents its best face in a powerful staging of *The Midsummer Marriage*



## ■ OPERA 2

... and English National Opera launches a new home for experimental work in Hackney



## ■ MUSIC 1

Sir Colin Davis and the LSO set off on Britain's first cycle of Bruckner symphonies



## ■ MUSIC 2

Mitsuko Uchida brings a typically silken touch to a chamber recital with the Carmina Quartet

DONALD COOPER

## New opera 'hothouse' opens in the East End

After months of adverse publicity, English National Opera has been overtaken in the dooms and glooms stakes by the beleaguered Royal Opera House. Some at ENO will doubtless be relieved to see the critical spotlight shift. Most, however, will regret the way in which it has distracted attention from one piece of operatic good news: the launch this week of the ENO Works, an innovative venture bringing together the company's Contemporary Opera Studio and Baylis Programme in a new home, the old Shoreditch Library building in Hackney, east London.

Although the new facility will not be fully operational until March, the ENO Works will throw open its doors to local residents on Saturday. As Mark-Anthony Turnage, ENO's composer-in-association and the project's director, puts it: "Opera may be a dirty word at present, but the open day will enable outsiders to see that we are pretty normal." Visitors will recognise little of their former public library, and find instead rehearsal spaces and office accommodation for a company that in the past has been forced to squat in thoroughly unsuitable venues.

This handsome turn-of-the-century building (Grade II listed, the work of Henry Thomas Hare) has been transformed with local support and as part of the area's regeneration: ENO has stumped up only £30,000 of the renovation's £150,000 total cost and is

leasing the premises from Hackney Council.

English National Opera is making a fresh attempt to nurture new talent. John Allison reports

Almost every aspect of ENO's work will benefit — orchestra and chorus will rehearse there, and the Baylis Programme will not only have a permanent base but be able to "adopt" the community for its education and outreach projects. But most exciting of all are the prospects for the Contemporary Opera Studio, which Turnage feels was previously "stuck on the side of the company, without total commitment. Now we've got core funding and a building."

Together with the artistic administrator, Sarah Hickson, Turnage will run the studio as a hothouse for the nurturing of new talent, bringing together all those involved in the creation of operas — composers, writers, producers, designers and performers — in a flexible, friendly environment.

Turnage, who is currently working on two new operas, enjoyed rare success with the premiere of his *Greek* at the 1988 Munich Biennale, itself a shining example to the studio.

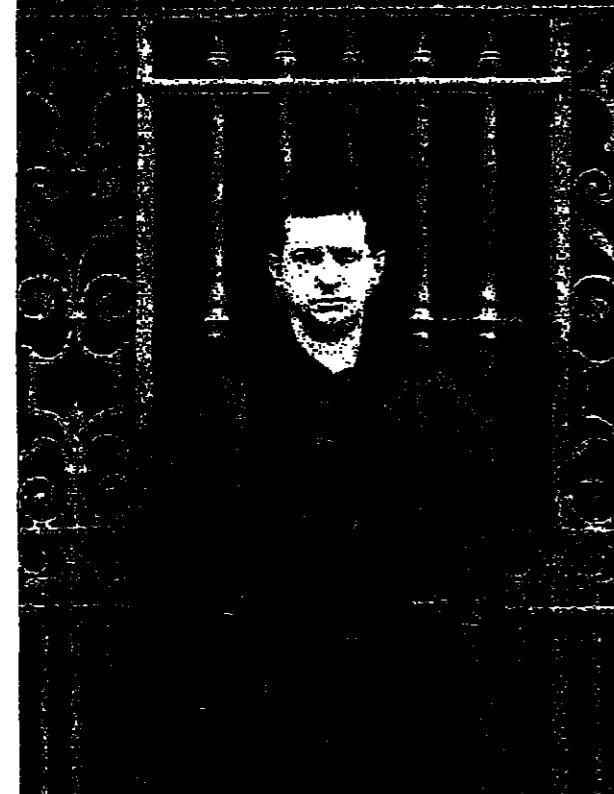
ADRIAN BROOKS



Made in heaven: Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*, once critically reviled, is gloriously vindicated in Graham Vick's new production

## So all you need is love

Rodney Milnes applauds a Royal Opera production of Tippett's buoyant masterpiece



Turnage: "This business is not only about composers, but about singers too, and breaking down barriers"

The rate at which new works appear and disappear reflects the unhealthy pressure on young composers to produce their first opera. "Too many people have been commissioned. I don't think there are loads of born opera composers, and the defunct Garden Venture was careless in commissioning so many. Not all composers have a sense of drama, but you still find them writing their own librettos and adapting their concert music for the theatre. Many set the same authors — Lorca is one always turning up — and a lot are based in the 19th century, with little for audiences to latch onto."

With Steven Berkoff's *Greek*, Turnage found an author that few had set before and subject-matter of contemporary resonance. "Something did happen with *Greek*. The audience wasn't just toffs — there are people out there. Of course ticket prices mean that audiences are all of a certain class. It really infuriates me, and I hope we can change all that working in Hackney."

JOHN ALLISON

Mid all the hoo-ha surrounding *The House*, it was good to be reminded that what matters in the end at Covent Garden is what happens on stage and in the pit, and on Tuesday it was shown to matter very much indeed — one of the most astonishing and original operas written this century was re-revived and restored for our time. For someone who had attended performances during the first run in 1955, and been dazzled by them, to witness the audience rising to acclaim the sprightly, eternally youthful, 91-year-old composer, Sir Michael Tippett, was extraordinarily stirring.

In 1955, *The Midsummer Marriage* was considered, to put it mildly, "difficult" — indeed, the scorn heaped upon libretto and music in the press makes painful reading today. Yet for all the weird mixture of Shaw, Eliot, Jung, Greek and Eastern mythology in the text, there seemed to be — to a teenager at least — a narrative thread as strong and logical as that of *The Magic Flute*. Yes, love, society, humanity, have to be tested, and the journeys up, down and through the elements made perfect sense.

What it may be difficult for teenagers today to take on board was the feeling of renewal the opera engendered in the 1950s: there had been two world wars and unimaginable horror, but this was

all part of a new start. The optimism, the sheer positiveness of Tippett's vision buoyed us all up no end, and the only shadow falling across Tuesday's first night was the nagging reminder that the start has faltered, the old order has fought back, and the opera is still not quite a period piece. "A loafer sponging off the state" says the business-savvy King Fisher of his prospective son-in-law.

Good heavens, we still talk like that...

Tippett's opera has not exactly been neglected in the intervening decades: all our national companies have staged it and this was the Royal Opera's third new production. Yet with each fresh encounter one is bowled over afresh by the mind-boggling exuberance of the music, its richness of melody and fastidious beauty of instrumentation. To be bowled over again in the company of Bernard Haitink was privilege indeed: he and his magnificent orchestra wallowed in the richness of texture, the grandeur of vision, lingering lovingly over the sheer beauty of the music

without ever quite losing its forward momentum. The score was performed without cuts and the four hours in the theatre felt like half that time.

And this is one of the last great chorus operas, reminiscent of *Boris Godunov* or *Boccinegra*. Their music is difficult but hugely rewarding, and for the daring energy and accuracy with which Terry Edwards's singers

threw themselves at the notes no praise could be too high. Chorus and orchestra — the nuts and bolts of any opera house. The only problem with the quiet, dignified demonstration by staff outside the theatre suggesting that the management pause for thought, if not consultation, before implementing its panic-stricken programme of redundancies was that it should perhaps have been outside the Treasury.

Graham Vick's production and Paul Brown's decor are clean-cut and to the point, in helpful counterpoint, you could argue, to the baroque exuberance of the music. Journeys to heaven and hell are imaginatively handled and the

climactic revelation of the lovers in a lotus flower is bewitchingly beautiful. I wondered only if Ron Howells's respectable abstract choreography could not with advantage have been more specific in its depiction of hunter and hunted — it certainly did not frightened me as much as it frightened Bella and Jack. But Vick's direction of the chorus had a dangerously anarchic edge to it: his third-act picnic looked like a Glyndebourne interval that had got slightly out of hand — spot on.

The soloists gave their all: Stephen O'Mara taking advantage of not being hustled by Haitink to sing Mark's music carefully and beautifully; Cheryl Barker sounding a little tense at first, but settling down to negotiate Jenifer's virtuoso lines with aplomb; Lillian Watson and Christopher Ventris giving really witty performances as Bella and Jack (there are funny lines and you are allowed to laugh); Eddiwen Harrhy and Peter Rose were sturdy Ancients and Catherine Wyn-Rogers got a lot of Mine Sosostri's words across as well as singing with glowing gravity. And the one and only John Tomlinson, of course, sang tirelessly and hurled all King Fisher's words inescapably at the audience.

We needed *Midsummer Marriage* in 1955, we need it now, and the absolutely essential Royal Opera has delivered the goods. Don't miss.

CONCERTS: The first British Bruckner symphonic cycle launched at the Barbican; plus chamber recitals

## Start of an epic journey

LSO / Davis  
Barbican

sense of Mozartian order: so much so that a finale to his Ninth eluded him. But in Davis's performance the work felt complete. Even though he pulled phrases around in the visionary Adagio, one sensed the serene affirmation of the composer's "farewell to life". Davis allowed the titanic

Since nearly all the major symphonists — including, most recently, Vaughan Williams — have received comprehensive treatment on the London concert platform, it is indeed surprising to find such a pivotal figure as Bruckner neglected. But he has often been misunderstood, and the imaginative coupling of his music with Mozart's should refresh our view of him. The differences between these two Austrian composers — one a man of the world who died aged 36, the other a character of humility who was still entering himself in diploma examinations in his late thirties — are obvious, but Mozart may emerge as more than just an early influence.

There are, however, few points of contact between Mozart and Bruckner in the latter's Ninth Symphony, which dominated Tuesday's concert. By the end of his life Bruckner had broken down all

opening movement to breathe and presented the increasingly tortured arguments with clarity.

Mozart, represented by his Violin Concerto No 3 in G, was served less well, in spite of the stylish playing. Davis drew from the LSO. The orchestral opening established a genial mixture of wit and charm that the soloist, the diminutive Midori, was unable to match. She gave a polished performance and seems incapable of ugly tone, but her self-conscious approach to the music was wide of the stylistic mark. Hardly a phrase passed without a teasing drop to pianissimo, and the Adagio was droopily sentimental. The real romanticism of Bruckner came as welcome relief.

JOHN ALLISON

BRITEN in his early twenties, Mendelssohn in his teens: this is the kind of thing that a young ensemble should be playing, surely, rather than late Beethoven. Much of what the Vellinger String Quartet did for the Manchester Chamber Concert Society seemed to confirm the wisdom of such thinking. By the end of the concert we were not so sure.

The Vellinger Quartet is admirably accomplished in technique, secure in ensemble, robust in sound, just right for the fearless projection of such highly coloured character pieces as Britten's *Three Divertimenti*. Firmly led by Stephen Gorley, it is also a quartet abundant in personality, with a cellist passionate enough to offset the occasional suspicion of severity in the first violin, an elegant viola, a second violin discreetly effective

## Touching without intimacy

Carmina Quartet  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

modern string quartet live, and I found myself having to readjust to the sound in the same way, that say five or six years ago, it took a while to settle into the period-instrument approach: the Quatuor Mosaïques has changed all that. There is a histrionic quality to the modern style of string playing (which stems largely from fast vibrato and high string tension) that worked all right in the Brahms Piano Quintet in the second half of the programme, but was much less successful in

I have to confess that it's some time since I heard a

modern string quartet live, and I found myself having to readjust to the sound in the same way, that say five or six years ago, it took a while to settle into the period-instrument approach: the Quatuor Mosaïques has changed all that. There is a histrionic quality to the modern style of string playing (which stems largely from fast vibrato and high string tension) that worked all right in the Brahms Piano Quintet in the second half of the programme, but was much less successful in

Op 132, in the same programme. The danger was not that Mendelssohn would seem callow by comparison but that late Beethoven would sound dry. Indeed,

there was a lack of imagination in the approach to the early part of the work. But something happened in the Molto adagio, first in the quicker D major sections and eventually in the Lydian deliberation itself. It assumed more meaning as it became more abstract.

The turning point of the interpretation was in the next movement, in the leader's suddenly dramatic performance of the recitative. While the finale allowed some of the pressure to leak away, it did indicate that youth and authentic late Beethoven are not incompatible.

GERALD LARNER

Schubert's G major quartet. Perhaps it was because Schubert's last quartet, for all its visionary, progressive qualities, still clings to its Classical inheritance in style and, above all, texture, and the Carmina Quartet's performance seemed overemphatic and their interpretation unsettled. That said, it must be difficult to come cold to this strange, tonally ambiguous work: dramatic and disturbing by design, elegiac yet elusive by nature. There was plenty of energy and commitment but I longed for cleaner textures and a more elegant, subtle approach. Probably the under-the-microscope acoustic of the QEH did not help (attempts had been made to make a more intimate setting), but I found their overall sound at times rough-edged and not always perfectly balanced.

Brahms's Piano Quintet in F minor is no less demanding a work, but in the company of Uchida, and with the Schubert behind them, the string players quickly established a different level of interpretation. They paced the work well. Uchida brought out perfectly the luminous quality of Brahms's piano-writing; some people might have preferred a heavier touch but I found that the way in which she stroked the keys achieved an ideal integration with the strings and added depth to the performance as a whole.

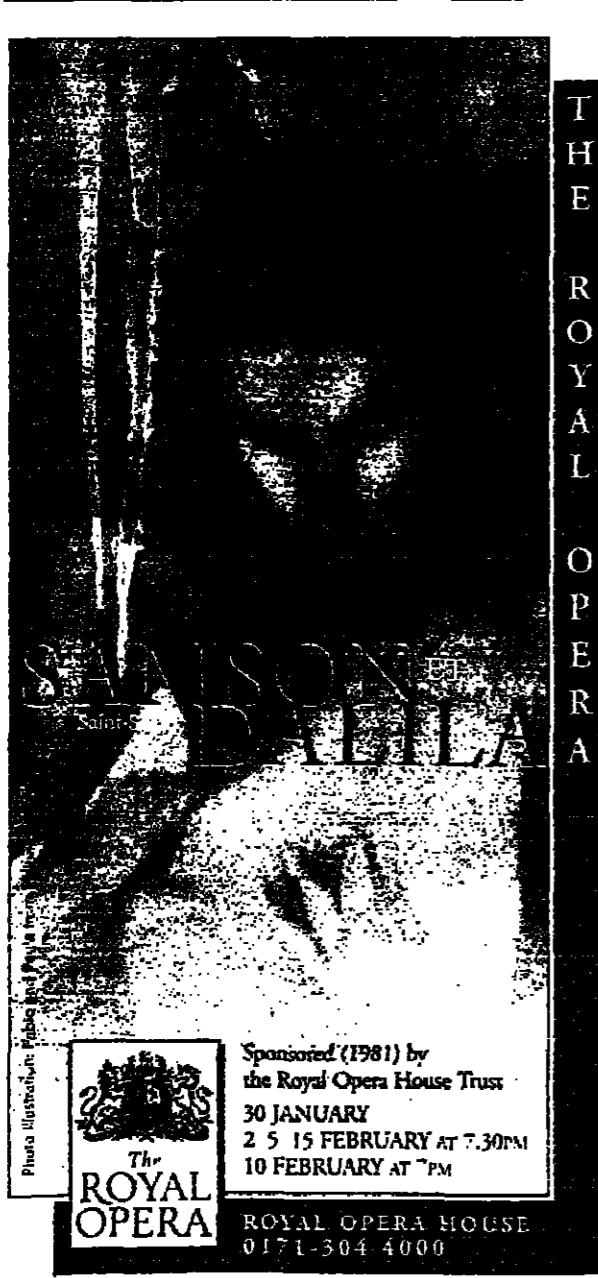
TESS KNIGHTON

as the intermediary between them. So there was no question of Mendelssohn emerging from his Quartet in A minor, Op 13, as the teenage fogey imitating late Beethoven and, except in the delightfully fresh *Intermezzo*, concealing his youthful personality in searching counterpoint and profound reflection. On the contrary, he was presented as a musician not so much repressed by his admiration of Beethoven's Quartet in A minor, Op 132, as inspired by his affection for it.

Even so, it was taking a risk — and restricting style and material — to include that same Quartet in A minor, Op 132, in the same programme. The danger was not that Mendelssohn would seem callow by comparison but that late Beethoven would sound dry. Indeed, there was a lack of imagination in the approach to the early part of the work. But something happened in the Molto adagio, first in the quicker D major sections and eventually in the Lydian deliberation itself. It assumed more meaning as it became more abstract. The turning point of the interpretation was in the next movement, in the leader's suddenly dramatic performance of the recitative. While the finale allowed some of the pressure to leak away, it did indicate that youth and authentic late Beethoven are not incompatible.

GERALD LARNER

A LIKELY LAD HAS COME INTO FUNNY MONEY! THE PLAYHOUSE 1971-832 1400





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■ CHOICE 2  
Final week for *South Pacific* and Patti Boulaye's *Bloody Mary*  
VENUE: Until Saturday at the Drill Hall, WC1

Hilary Finch on how rhythm and melody can help young deaf children to speak

## Feeling for the sound of music

In a tiny mews, a filling as it were between two sandwich bars in a side street midway between Euston and King's Cross stations, pomp and circumstance are in the air. *Land of Hope and Glory* blasts out from the loudspeakers and a three-year-old called Abi proudly beats her drum to the march. She starts as Elgar's great crescendo revs up, and she stops when the music ceases. She can hear only the deeper tones, and when congratulated on sharing her drum, she tunes in to the vowels of human speech.

Before the deaf virtuoso percussionist, Evelyn Glennie, the idea that music was not only a viable but a vital ingredient in the education of hearing-impaired children was considered at best as eccentric, at worst as totally incongruous. But Beethoven himself may have endorsed a positive view if there had been ears to hear him. For the range of vibrations and frequencies which can be experienced by the use of carefully selected instruments is now acknowledged in the development of the rhythm and melody of speech and language.

Christopher Place, Britain's first speech, language and hearing centre for babies and children under five, was opened in December by Evelyn Glennie. Its miniature furniture and gently curved, pastel-tinted walls are as bright and new as the research which motivated its existence.

The years between birth and five have for long been a silent void for hearing-impaired children and their parents, as far as mutual support and therapeutic activity have been concerned. And as such awareness has increased so, paradoxically, have resources decreased. This was the force behind Christopher Place; this, and the heightened awareness that background noise, television and the speed at which children are now required to communicate, are



Beethoven would approve: music therapy is now an important part of education for hearing-impaired children

possible contributory factors in the ever-growing number of speech and language-delayed children.

The chairman Andrew Jaye, who has a hearing-impaired child of his own, visited a similar centre in America and determined that a centre offering a full nursery curriculum, together with interdisciplinary therapeutic intervention, should be provided in Britain. Christopher Place became a registered charity in 1991, formed a board of trustees, and started four years of fund-raising. The breakthrough came when an anonymous foundation offered to set up custom-built accommodation. Three small, light floors open into flower-filled, sound-proofed rooms, each one with semi-circular tables for child, teacher and parent.

With the help of the head teacher, an educational psychologist, a teacher of the deaf, an occupational therapist and a dance and music therapist, a boy of 18 months, assessed a year ago as hearing impaired and with a total inability to communicate, found himself with a vocabulary of more than 60 words after visiting the centre three times a week for 12 weeks. The director

Angela Harding points out that testing has also revealed that several children with speech and language delay have made six to eight-week advances in just a fortnight. She attributes this to the use of appropriate language levels, integrated with music and dance, and to a programme of close follow-up and work and linking with parents and local authorities.

Referral to Christopher Place — sometimes from as far away as Manchester or Wales — is through paediatricians, GPs, health visitors and above all, the parental bush telegraph. Funding can be private, from local authorities, or from the centre's own Child Sponsorship Fund; it is Christopher Place's "fervent hope" that no child who requires therapy will be refused

because of finance. The Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children (founded in 1976 by Ann Rachlin) hopes to contribute to this, and has already donated a spacious room for dance and music therapy, as well as a set of customised musical instruments to help hearing impaired children to reproduce the rhythm and melody of speech and language, and to start a life of communication.

■ A gala concert at the Savoy Theatre, London, on Sunday marks the 20th anniversary of the Beethoven Fund and proceeds will be divided between Christopher Place and The Elizabeth Foundation in Portsmouth. Tickets are £10 to £100, from 0171-836 8888. ■ The Speech, Language and Hearing Centre is at Christopher Place, Chelton Street, London NW1 10UW (0171-383 3834; fax 0171-3099).

be dimly seen walking to the trapeze, where he strips off his black suit and, now with his naked, misshapen back to us, hoists himself onto the trapeze. Schmidt, meanwhile, is singing a Donizetti aria.

This is the first of a number of weird but magical juxtapositions. He dances in the dark with two small torches illuminating random scraps of the stage; he drapes himself with coloured tulip bulbs, like a necklace of jewels.

Perhaps you need to be in a special mood to respond to these curious brisly introduced episodes, but once in that mood, there is beauty, gravity and wonder to be found.

JEREMY KINGSTON



### Meinwarts ICA

Andrew Roberts examines Churchill's wartime advice, and finds a hint of new Labour in the Conservatives' postwar wanderings

When Winston Churchill and Reginald Maudling sat down to write the Leader's Speech for the Tory party conference of 1947 it slowly dawned on Maudling that despite his assurances to R.A. Butler that spring, Churchill had not actually read the Industrial Charter, the crucial declaration of party policy industrial matters. So Maudling handed him a paragraph summarising it — centralisation, high employment produced by government, strong trade unions, no denationalisation, equal pay, increased spending on training, joint production councils, co-operation schemes — and Churchill said he did not agree with a word of it. "Well, sir," answered the hapless speech writer, "this is what the conference has adopted." "Oh well," said Churchill, "leave it in."

For all the possible self-parody in the tale, it could serve as the *leitmotif* for the postwar age of Churchill and Eden. Inattention to detail, lack of interest in domestic issues, laziness over party policy and a general drift towards social democracy led by Butler and Harold Macmillan. Soon after the charter was adopted, Macmillan

## Drifting away from victory



Churchill's humour finds favour with Anthony Eden at the 1953 Conservative Party conference

wrote to Butler congratulating him and saying that its right-wing opponents, such as Waldron Smithers, Sir Herbert Williams and Ralph Aspinwall, thought it "milk and water socialism, which perhaps it is, but... there does not seem to me much harm in this". John Ramsden's book, the latest edition of the long-running and excellent Longman History of the Conservative Party, is a well-researched, objective study of the locust years when the Tory Wets took over the party from the

Chamberlainites and made it a social democratic rather than authentically Tory organisation.

If you want to read the charter, whose application under Butskellism did so much damage to

competitiveness, productivity and sterling, just wait for new Labour's election manifesto.

One of Butler's braver ideas — though not one which he was in the end willing to make a resigna-

tion issue — was the propagation of Operation Robot, a scheme to make sterling convertible in 1952. It was scuppered by Churchill's memories of the Gold Standard debacle and the machinations of

Germany in the 1930s and his defence of the Bomber Command offensive. On the debit side, perhaps, is his support for Morgenstern's plan to pastoralise Germany, his advocacy of aerial mines, his quarrels with Sir Henry Tizard over radar and almost all his postwar Keynesian economic advice. The man of whom it was originally remarked that he was to the right of Genghis Khan, he relished the politically incorrect, once asking an idealistic colleague: "What is this foolish proposal to abolish hunger?"

Most prime ministers have extra-special advisers — Tom Jones, Sir Horace Wilson, Marcus Falkender and Alan Walters all gave non-departmental advice free of fear and favour. Lindemann, however, who could in Churchill's words "explain to me in lucid, honest terms what the issues were", was the greatest of them all. This book, which takes advantage of the expiry of the 30 and 50-year rules in a way earlier biographies could not, triumphantly succeeds in filling a gap in the intellectual history of the Second World War.

Like any expert, he must be judged on results. On the credit side must be his work opposing appeasement, on the anti-Luftwaffe aerial beans, discovering how to save aircraft from spinning out of control (a considerable risk to his own life), helping Jewish scientists to escape

LAZZI HAMAN

## Glad to bear the stamp of lowly origin

Simon Barnes

IN QUEST OF THE SACRED BABOON: A Scientist's Journey By Haas Kummer Princeton University Press, £20

(or crippled by the removal of the demands of making a living — finding food, avoiding becoming food — have developed a measurably more elaborate, perhaps decadent, social life.

One group developed what Kummer calls "the mantle cult", in which the lone adult male's furry cloak became an object of something very like veneration: constant and obsessive grooming of the male by the rest of the group became a major part of daily life. Something neither Kummer nor any other observer has seen in the wild. In this we can see something like symbol, religion, and its development in "civilised" (zoo-like?) life — if we wish.

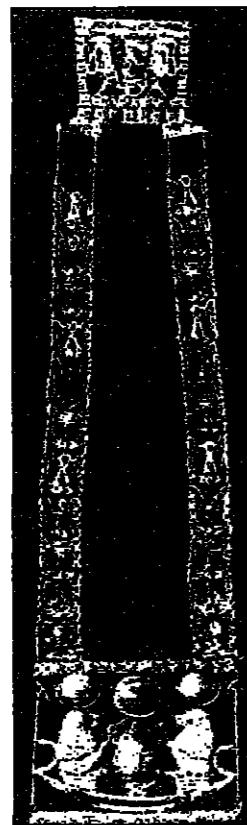
But Kummer finds the profoundest joys in what he terms "the Adam experience", the illusion of "an existence before humans had appeared and began to change everything". This is precisely what I felt myself, when I sat silent in the forest with a bushbuck unaware, and five yards from my foot.

But he still savours the "zoologist's dream of being accepted by wild animals, nourished by Kipling's Mowgli and Lofting's Dr Dolittle". These were the heroes of my own youth, although I really wanted to be Bagheera, the black panther. It is part of the dream of improving the human condition by attempting escape from it to seek wisdom beyond species, among our fellow-mammals.

Not for what they can teach us about ourselves, but for their own sake. And not for the sake of the objective gathering of facts and observations, either. Kummer writes: "Pure research has its origin in the subjective, in a human being's almost unconscious but powerful longing to feel at home in the greater order of things."

Religion, he says, is the oldest path for the search. Kummer happened to choose the way of the sacred baboon; why not? The proper study of mankind is life.

The hamadryas in the Tutankhamun treasure (1340 BC)



The hamadryas in the Tutankhamun treasure (1340 BC)



The handwritten scrolls of the Torah, demonstrating the need to preserve Jewish tradition (from *Symbols of Judaism* by Marc-Alain Ouaknine, Editions Assouline, £35)

## The purpose of survival

Julia Neuberger

VANISHING DIASPORA The Jews in Europe since 1945 By Bernard Wasserstein Hamish Hamilton, £20

THE NAZI attempt at genocide did not destroy us, despite killing six million. Postwar anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe did not destroy us, despite virulent attacks in Poland, determined suppression under communism, and shameful language in Croatia and Hungary. Bernard Wasserstein argues that what is now destroying the Jews of Europe is our own apathy. Our birthrate is falling. Our attachment to Judaism is dwindling. Our intermarriage rate is rising. We are destroying ourselves.

Wasserstein is an impressive British-born historian, teaching at Brandeis University in Massachusetts. Like me, he finds a sense of Jewish future — in terms of scholarship — in America, not in Europe, though Jewish scholarship is growing slowly here owing to dedicated campaigners. Jews and non-Jews alike. But the centre has shifted, from the great traditional centres of Eastern Europe, and the heights of modern academic study of Judaism in Germany, before the war, to America and Israel, where Jewish studies are commonplace on university campuses.

He likens the Jewish communities of Europe to the ancient community of Kaifeng in China. Jews went there on the Silk Road, and a community persisted for eight centuries before merging into the surrounding culture. We European Jews will also persist, by analogy, but will eventually forget why we still carry out a few Jewish rituals, and gradually assimilate completely into the surrounding secularism.

Or will we? I take this intensely personally, as a British Jewess of German origins. Whether we disappear is up to us. Wasserstein suggests some ways out of the apathy, including the replacement, gradually, of Jewish religious observance, clearly on the decline, with Jewish "culture".

THIS WAS first suggested seriously by the French Jewish intellectual Richard Marienstras, who argued that we could be Jews without necessarily being Jewish by religion or by identification with Zionist nationalism, the two main ways we have identified ourselves since the Second World War. His answer lay in a renewal of Jewish

of the diaspora". If we can also welcome those non-Jews who marry our children, drawing them into our community rather than seeking to deny them, we might both make a stab at keeping our numbers up, and increase our intellectual and moral strength.

Wasserstein does not believe this is likely, though he gives it some credence. I believe it is possible, though languages will be relatively unimportant. If we can get our selves away from an obsession merely with surviving, and begin to see a purpose in our survival, if we find messages in Judaism about the nature of family, community, and society to be shared with others irrespective of our personal belief in God or lack of it, then we might be able to create a "cultural politics

exciting intellectually, spiritually and morally that they would wish to seek it for themselves. If the excitement about values is there, then the absence of anti-Semitism, the acceptance in the wider world, will not kill our community by kindness. But if we cannot find anything worthwhile in our heritage, or do not even look, then we will disappear.

THE WORLD from which my family comes, the rich world of German Jewry, was destroyed in hatred. The world in which I have grown up, of liberal tolerant Britain with its acceptance of Jews post-war, has a place for a culturally, religiously and historically diverse group in its midst, which has a contribution to make to the common good. Unlike Wasserstein, I believe that in Britain and France, if our communal leadership were to be braver, more tolerant of those whose Jewish status is dubious, and less willing to give in to those who say we must keep our group "purely Jewish" by dismissing those who intermarry, we could still have a chance of surviving, and prospering, and bringing something of spiritual and moral value into the wider domain.

THE BOOK THAT ROCKED THE ESTABLISHMENT  
THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER

The State We're In  
WILL HORNBY

The  
OUT  
W

## As the butcher turns to dust

**F**ew novels of this century have taken on the weight of modern myth, but William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* is one of them, a tortuous masterpiece about the Bundren family's journey to bury their mother, their lives unravelling while her corpse festers on the back of their cart. Rage, rivalry, illegitimacy, unwanted pregnancy, madness and the brutal elements conjoin to conjure a furious but transcendent vision of the Bundrens, and of the American South that spawned them.

In the hands of an uncertain talent, any reworking of this narrative—and particularly a contemporary, British reworking—would be folly, an invitation to bathos; but Graham Swift's new novel, *Last Orders* is a triumphant, and ultimately redemptive, adaptation of Faulkner's classic. It, too, is the tale of a journey to a burial, and in its telling Swift has taken up Faulkner's device of alternating named monologues. The novel is punctuated with more specific debts to its predecessor, both in form and in detail; and yet *Last Orders* is not mere pastiche. A resonant work of art in its own right, it confirms its author as one of his generation's finest, with an imagination of rare immediacy and vitality.

**A**s perhaps befits its Englishness, the novel explores largely the turmoil of an older generation rather than the demons of the young. Four men embark upon a day-trip from Bernmonsey to Margate to scatter the ashes of the deceased butcher, Jack Dodd, in accordance with his last request. The youngest among them, his adopted son Vince, is over 40, a flashy car salesman who spurned his father's trade. The other three—Ray "Lucky" Johnson, a man with a knack for the horses' bellicose fruit and veg stall owner named Lenny Tate; and Vic Tucker, the dignified undertaker—are Jack's closest friends, for whom his death is a reminder that they too, are nearing the end of life's road. And yet they set off in Vince's borrowed Mercedes, on a sun-filled morning, in an aura not of doom but of festivity: "like it's something Jack has done for us, so as to make us feel special, so to give us a treat."

The route to Margate offers unforeseen detours— to Rochester, to the naval memorial at Chatham, to a country hilside in Kent, and to Canterbury Cathedral—and provides each of the travellers with his own winding path of recollection, remorse and reprimand. What



Graham Swift: the deceptive simplicity of his writing only adds to the power of his latest novel

Claire Messud

LAST ORDERS  
By Graham Swift  
Picador, £15.99

emerges is not only the pattern of almost gothic tragedy that has touched them all, but intimations of their entire Cockney world: of small businesses passed from father to son, of Smithfield market at dawn, of hours in the local pub and the betting shop. In this solidity there is both solace and deadening limitation, but every man in the Mercedes has nurtured his share of secret dreams.

The novel offers voice to the absent women, too, to Mandy, Vince's wife and above all to Amy, Jack's widow, who has declined to join the men. "My own journey to make. Their journey and mine... This is where I belong, upstairs on this bus... Neither here nor there, just travelling in between". She reflects, on her way instead to visit

resentments and agonies of years; but Swift, in *Last Orders* allows for reconciliation, and even for hope. And while Faulkner's talent was to write himself into each of his characters, to insert improbable, magnificent passages of articulation into the minds of his creations, Swift has chosen to efface his writerliness almost entirely from this book: there is a deceptive simplicity in the novel's diction, a captivating authenticity that it projects. This difference may bespeak the distance between the daring of genius and the control of excellence, between the work and the reworking; but readers should be in no doubt that *Last Orders* is an extremely fine novel, a surpassing testament to Swift's vibrant and powerful gifts.

As in *As I Lay Dying* the funeral trip teases to the surface the rolling

## Wan elegy, vital imagery

**S**ilanus Heaney's first publication since winning the Nobel Prize is a translation undertaken with Stanislaw Baranczak, from a 16th-century Polish poet. Heaney has always pursued poetry in every shape and form, but I would be curious to learn how Baranczak, a Polish scholar and poet and a colleague of Heaney's at Harvard, got him interested in the enterprise (always assuming it was that way round).

**L**aments are a set of 19 elegies by Jan Kochanowski for his daughter Ursula, who died at the age of two and a half. In his introduction, Baranczak describes the scandal caused by their publication in 1580. Contemporary taste, it appears, held that only great men were a fit subject for elegy and obituary. One is reminded of the paintings of the period, the children like sealed-down adults in family groups, the stiff little "doubtless" and "fingergales".

Kochanowski shows some of that stiffness too, as he mourns his daughter as his "poet-heiress", a well-mannered girl who said her prayers, was good to the servants and curtsied nicely. It makes you realise that childhood was only invented much later.

either in the century of Rousseau or Mill or, most likely, Freud. Kochanowski's real tenderness towards what in essence an effigy is an awkward proposition: he simply doesn't have the words and perceptions that would de-

scribe a child credibly to us.

And the status of the text in the original language is unclear. Baranczak assures us that the poet practically invented Polish as a literary language, when many writers were equally proficient in Latin. But even a translation by an English contemporary of Kochanowski's like Sidney or Ben Jonson (the author of *On My First Daughter* and *On My Son*, poems to his dead children) would not have matched the primary thrill of the Polish. The couplets of Heaney and Baranczak appear faithful enough (the Polish is printed *en face*, a bold and proud touch), but 600 years after Chaucer, 400 after Marlowe, they do have a certain routine to them.

The result is almost a double, mismatched naivety. Kochanowski, experienced Renaissance man and court poet, going through the gamut of philosophy and religion for consolation; and the restrained, uneven language of the translation. Only rarely does it rise beyond versification, as here, where the compression is almost proverbial, and set off with the deliberately botched rhyme: "We play at blind man's buff/ Until hard edges break into our path".

The final lament, a five-page dream poem, perhaps suggests why Heaney took this on: there are echoes of the elegies in *Field Work* or the Danie translations of *Station Island*.

The Spanish poet Luis de Gongora (1561-1627, a generation after Kochanowski) is the only poet I can think of whose name has spawned a noun. Gongorism, according to the dictionary, is "a literary style characterised by studied obscurity and the use of various

ornate devices". And yet Gongora comes across as a poet of glittering images and tremendous rhetorical imagination.

Michael Smith's work in introducing and annotating the poems is an admirable bit of advocacy. He quotes Lorca on the poet: "Nothing can be more misguided than to read his madrigal to a rose with a rose in one's hand. Either the rose or the madrigal should be sufficient", to convey the abstractness and autonomy of Gongora's writing.

His translations of the poems—mainly sonnets—are rhymeless and unscanned, but they preserve the taut grace of the original, like these lines on an epitaph: "but they are honoured by immortal verse/ that shall persist in lettered tomb, Felixmena, the hard stone/ Daliso the sculptor, their ills the chisel." One would "buy" Gongora just for those two last lines. The American poet Robert Lowell translated two of Gongora's poems in the mid 1960s, and they show what an impact he might have—has had—on English poetry: "The hours will hardly pardon us their loss, those brilliant hours that wore away our days, our days that ate into eternity."

For her grandfather's time, she has much more information, mainly handed down to her through her family. By now their name had expanded to Cleenewerk de Crayencour ("Yourenear" is an anagram), and they lived in Baileuil in

Rachel Cusk on a strike at Martin Amis's domain

## Feeding time at the English zoo

**E**nglish *Settlement* wants to be a big book: a very big book. The biggest book, as Martin Amis might say: so this is Amis' world we are dropping in on, an abbreviated tourist's trail around the eschatological highlights of post-modern urban life: a morning in the museum of decaying culture, into the rotting heart of the class system for lunch, and then out in time to watch our guide lift with the toe of his elegant boot the rock that England squirms under and let it come thudding down again.

Set in a penumbra, ubiquitously littered 1990s London, the novel purports to be the narrative of Scott Marshall, an American management consultant employed by a rapacious City firm, whose apparently limitless appetite for sweeping social discourse propels us through an unflogging and profoundly unpleasant autopsy of the country in which he finds himself.

It is to D. J. Taylor's credit that he doesn't even attempt to render the idiom of his narrator, opting instead for lofty, cut-glass prose, occasionally permitting the odd Americanism to bunk down in his exquisitely furnished vocabulary; but it does mean that the novel is awash with unattributed intelligence, rogue perceptions, and a central character so indistinct that he is driven to telling us what everybody else says about him, just so that we know.

According to one of these assessments, Scott is a "conceited little prick"; but this comes as something of a surprise—and comes, too, at the novel's end—transforms the flight into a gesture of disownment, an authorial disclaimer designed to retract at the last minute what a few pages earlier looked like becoming a grandiloquent *fâce*.

Scott's story is the old fashioned kind, in which strands of mystery are amply paid out, to be frantically plaited into resolution for a final *coup de théâtre*.

Rumblings are heard of a murderous management buy-out at the firm; an enigmatic new girlfriend is on the scene, the frequent comparison of whose legs to a pair of scissors whets the appetite for some emasculating high-jinks later on. Scott has been reduced to the accounts of Barry Mower, king of a pornography empire and now proprietor of an ailing Walham football club; and from over the Atlantic,

ENGLISH SETTLEMENT  
By D. J. Taylor  
Chatto & Windus, £15.99

Scott's absentee Anglophile father is sending cryptic messages and threatening to visit.

Taylor's grasp of life in the City is sure: the accountant's argot, theistic greed, the computer-game annihilation by which the besotted become the vagrant, gathering their possessions into black bin-liners. Despite some



Taylor: artful but contrived

interminable detours (the fulfilment of the jacket's promise of an "insider's view of how the City works", no doubt) down the long and featureless corridors of corporate history, the brute smell of a cruel and deeply masculine world wafts through a world of the antipathetic but proximate instincts of group behaviour and self-preservation.

**F**aintly implausibly, Scott's profession affords him access to the upper echelons of English society, where he beds a variety of Home Counties lovelies; encounters whose Laura Ashley *leimotif* is deployed somewhat beyond endurance to entrap a world which remains disdainfully out of reach. The aristocracy, that tetchy and slumbering beast, swats at Taylor with its tail; but in this lightning tour of our national zoo, we're onto the next exhibit soon enough. A clunking gear change from high life to low brings us to Barry Mower, the porn mogul

with a heart of gold plate whose taste for the unsophisticated ushers in that other English staple, football. Mower is a fine comic character, but chapters devoted to the subject of "How Barry does it" make excessive demands on our interest in him.

But as with so much else in this curious novel, Mower and the world he occupies are described rather than captured, with a kind of anthropological zeal which holds empathy at bay. Taylor keeps the novel running like a documentarist's camera, while his characters meander fruitlessly through their recollections of times better, more interesting, than these. "Incredible, really," muses Barry. "I mean, LCC development down in the East End. Old bomb sites down in Poplar and Shoreditch where the council was putting up flats and that... fit a block of flats with duff circuits, say, and fix a maintenance deal with the council. It's always buggered, and they're always having to call us in, but if there's any trouble, well, you just blame your suppliers."

Born along on this tide of *fin de siècle* weariness, the novel looks set to subside into somnolence, despite the occasionally buoyant piece of personal clutter which floats to the surface. Scott's fear of choking—he nearly died of combined embarrassment and suffocation, when a piece of seafood lodged in his throat during a high-octane Manhattan business lunch—is a touching sign of life in an otherwise bloodless landscape, and his telephone conversations with his dreadful brother in Montana possess an animus lacking elsewhere.

All, however, founders on a rocky subplot concerning a female serial killer who cuts off men's genitalia and daubs the letters RAM (Revenge Against Men, stupid) on their bedroom walls; a cheap frill stitched with such inane winking irony to the hem of the plot that when abruptly it falls off two thirds of the way through one hardly notices.

Even a ponderous citation from Anthony Powell ("I began to brood on the complexity of writing a novel about English life") cannot give weight to an occasionally dazzling, but more often artful, contrivance. *English Settlement* sets out to take the big picture, but all we end up with is somebody else's photographs.

**D**elicate threads spun to the past

Derwent May

HOW MANY YEARS  
A Memoir  
By Marguerite Yourenear  
Translated by  
Maria Louise Ascher  
Aidan Ellis, £20

French Flanders, just on the Belgian border. She draws a sharp portrait of her bullying grandmother Noemi, and a



Yourenear: a dreamlike telling of her family's history

amours. But even this part of the book is, like the rest, written in the historic present tense—as if all is happening under our eyes, and yet all is just a fiction or a dream.

The whole story has a strange feeling of remoteness, and one that is fortified by the author's fatalism and irony. She looks at photographs of her father as a child and as an old man, and comments that "the entire interval between them seems a vain confusion, an agitation with no point, a useless chaos that makes one wonder why it was necessary to pass through it at all." Her tale is like a delicate, ancient spider's web that could crumble at a touch—and one that she would be quite content to see crumble.

### SATURDAY BOOKS

The trials of an editor bringing a book to birth; Tunku Varadarajan on a Vietnamese Novel *Without a Name*; Christina Odone's first novel; plus paperbacks and more

**The State We're In**  
OUT NOW IN VINTAGE PAPERBACK

WILL HUTTON

THE NEW AND REVISED EDITION

# Five go out to fulfil great expectations

## FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP



**David Hands, rugby union correspondent**, profiles players with the potential to turn their national teams' hopes into championship glory over the next two months



Lawrence Dallaglio

THE maturing of Lawrence Dallaglio has been one of the more impressive aspects of England's recent progress. There was a time when it seemed a bright young talent might be lured too frequently to the sevens circuit, but the events of this season have provided an appropriate finishing school.

The pedigree was there — England schools, colts, under-21 students and A XV — and so was the physique. The doubt was the application. At 20, though, many a young player's head would have been turned by the invitations which flooded towards the England team that won the inaugural world sevens tournament in Edinburgh in 1993.

It took some time for England to trust him with an A-team place, partly because they were uncertain about his best position. Dallaglio's capacity to play across the entire back row made him an ideal replacement, though his raw skills were sufficient to impress Jack Rowell, then the incoming manager, who took him with the senior side to South Africa in 1994.

But, with hindsight, the making of Dallaglio may prove to be the disruptions at Wasps caused by the autumnal departure of Rob Andrew and Dean Ryan. The club made him captain at the age of 23. "I drew strength from that and I knew that, if I were to fulfil my hopes of international rugby, I would have to play very well every week," Dallaglio, a final-year student at Kingston University, said.

He gained a place on the bench against South Africa in November — when he won his first cap after injury to Tim Rodber — and was retained for the meeting with Western Samoa last month. He needs time to learn the different lines of the open-side flanker but the three-year wrangle as to the best occupant of the No 7 jersey could well be over.

His play for Leinster this season clearly demonstrates why. Not only does he have the speed of the mark and the strength to take his team over the advantage line, he performs automatically all the humdrum chores which are second nature to New Zealanders — the obvious defensive duties, the less obvious

covering of the weaknesses of others, the acceptance of responsibility.

One piece of work for the province against Pontypridd was outstanding. Off balance he had the wit both to cover a cross kick when his full back had been submerged and to hook away the clearance, almost over his shoulder. The debut cap against the United States earlier this month was almost a matter of course.

He plays in the position that Kidd himself occupied as a player. Since John Mitchell, the former Walkato No 8, is assisting Kidd this season, it makes sense to follow their train of thought through to the

playing side if possible and, in McQuillin, who works as a development officer for the Irish Rugby Football Union, they have the perfect vehicle. He will bring a sense of stability to the midfield which has been absent for long.

Ireland have an attacking back three in Staples, Geoghegan and Wallace which they must use to advantage but they cannot do so without precision timing from the stand-off and inside centre. McQuillin is also strong enough to hold up the ball until his back row arrives to build the next wave of attacks; if he can do the hard work, he will be content for the speed of others to carry them to glory.

More than that though, McQuillin, 25, has quickly emerged from the shadows to become one of the vital cogs in the Scotland engine. Like Graeme Bathop for New Zealand, his swift hands and instant decision-making buy time and space for his colleagues, while his physique puts a premium on skill.

Like so many players these days, his grounding in the game includes a summer in New Zealand, where he learnt that the scrum half's repertoire should include a sound defence. Redpath has a well-deserved reputation for tackling, which helped him initially towards A caps and a tour to the South Pacific in 1993 before his debut international, as a replacement, against New Zealand later that year.

Two-thirds of his 15 caps came last year. Before that, he had to contest a place with Andy Nicol and Derrick Patterson while overhead lurked the presence of Gary Armstrong. It speaks volumes for his character that he has struggled off such challenges to emerge as first choice in his own right; the self-employed joiner has become the target of



Christian Califano

If you can hold your own in New Zealand, the chances are that you can distinguish yourself in any company. Christian Califano, then no more than 22, made his first international appearance against the All Blacks in Christchurch in 1994 and shared in France's memorable 20-series victory.

His first task was to force his way ahead of vastly more experienced players in Laurent Seigne, Louis Armary and Laurent Bézéché and, full of confidence after being named the best tight-head in France after his displays for Toulouse, he did. His next problem was his opponent, the formidable Richard Lee, who asks the sort of questions — not all of them covered in the law book — that few young props can answer.

Califano's response was so successful that he became an immediate fixture in a France team which has developed a reputation for sound scrummaging. But his game offers far more than that. His ball

handling is utterly secure and his mobility about the field, at 16st 7lb, makes him a formidable addition to the French armoury.

Anyone watching his displays in the Heineken Cup this season, notably in Toulouse's winning final against Cardiff, will bear witness to his prowess (the more remarkable since a rib injury had forced him off the field a week earlier against Swansea) and one of the canons of the game with England on Saturday will be his clash with Graham Rowntree, so similarly accomplished.

Employed by Aerospatiale Toulouse, Califano has won 16 caps in just 18 months. His secure technique at the scrum in the cornerstone position is allied to support for his jumpers, which has helped to improve France's lineout so significantly. His three years with Toulouse make him familiar with the all-round game that Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach and himself a product of Toulouse, seeks to use and his youth ensures a lengthy spell in the team's front row.



Justin Thomas

IF there is one position on the field in which a player of vision may profit, it is full back; if there is one quality with which that player needs to be blessed above all, it is pace. In Justin Thomas, Wales have found a happy marriage of both — now all they need to do is release him.

Thomas stands at the head of the new breed of youngsters who have been fed in to the national XV over the past ten months, symbolising the hope that the dragon's fire can indeed be rekindled. He has thrilled crowds at Llanelli with his pace and fluent counter-attacking skills and, above all, with the confidence of youth in a country whose patience has been sorely tested of late.

Thomas, then 21, made his debut in the daunting surroundings of Ellis Park, Johannesburg, last September, when his slight frame looked unlikely to challenge the rampaging South African forwards. Yet Thomas played his part in a brave defensive display. His catching of the high ball is good but it is in attack that his gifts really come into play.

He has the pace of a wing and the timing of a stand-off half; although he joins his backs in a variety of positions, his great strength is inter-play with his wings, who this season may well turn out to be his club colleagues, Ieuan Evans and Wayne Proctor.

But he has the footballer's instinctive knowledge of the moment when best to attack and the place where the enemy is weakest. Since he is unlikely to break defences with the sheer strength upon which so many modern backs depend, his sideslip is an invaluable weapon with which to puncture the first line and his speed can then carry him considerable distances.

Last season, Thomas, a development officer for the Welsh Rugby Union, was named the most promising player in the country. Promise has now to be turned into fulfilment and that will not happen overnight. When it does, it will be exciting to see.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand from a pairs event, shown to me by my old partner Chris Dixon. It illustrates the theme of 'side-suit first'.

Dealer East Love all Match point pairs

♦K1073  
♦103  
♦A1065  
♦J10  
♦A85  
♦A92  
♦4  
♦A9752

♦K9732  
♦KQ643

♦K1073  
♦103  
♦A1065  
♦J10  
♦A85  
♦A92  
♦4  
♦A9752

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: Jack of clubs

At some tables East opened Three Hearts, and when South was playing double for penalties (not greatly used nowadays) the final contract was Three Hearts doubled. The normal play in the heart suit, with no other indications, is to lead towards the King. However, with the likelihood that South has all the hearts East can restrict him to two tricks by starting by leading low towards the ten. That way East makes nine tricks if South doesn't find his diamond ruff.

Some Souths played Five Clubs, and received the best lead of a trump. You might think that with ten trumps between the hands it does no harm to draw a second trump, but if you did that you are guilty of a fundamental mistake, of not counting our tricks. Say you win the second trump in dummy, and belatedly play a diamond. The defence will switch to hearts or

spades, and though after each ruff in dummy you can ruff a diamond in hand, by the time the fifth round is established you have no way back to dummy.

The correct technique is to count your tricks: five trumps in hand, two aces and three ruffs — ten tricks in all. To make eleven you have to establish the diamonds, and the way to do that is to play a diamond at trick two. Then if the defence continue trumps to thwart your cross-ruff plan, you win the trump in dummy. Now you are in the right hand to establish the diamonds — after ruffing a diamond you cash the major suit aces and eventually at the end of the cross-ruff the fifth diamond becomes established and you are in dummy to cash it.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

New league

At Simpson's-in-the-Strand earlier this week the new Martell League for London clubs was launched, with Barry Martin as the organiser.

It will be a knockout tournament and first-round pairings include: Roehampton Club v The Savile Club; The RAC v Simpson's; Brooks's Club v Hurlingham; Chelsea Arts Club v RAC B team; East India Club v Hurlingham B team.

The first-round opponent for the BBC team is yet to be announced.

Blazing bishops

The following brilliant game was played in a subsidiary tournament at Hastings this year. Black sacrificed a rook for a minor piece in order to dominate the board with his bishop pair.

White: Nunn  
Black: Cherniaev  
Hastings Weekend Tournament, January 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nf3 Nf5 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Nf3 Nf5 7 Bg5 Bf5 8 Nc3 Nf5 9 Nf3 Nf5 10 Nc3 Nf5 11 Bg5 Bf5 12 0-0 Bg7 13 Qh5 Bf5 14 c4 bxc4

Diagram of final position

Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders may be made to 01763 327901).

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

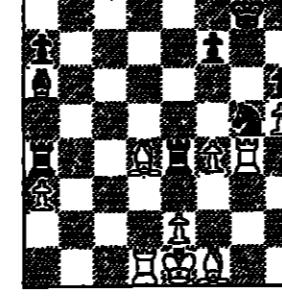
PONTIANAK  
a. A scoundrel, brawler  
b. A bag, purse, wallet  
c. A comfortable shoe

OLINGO  
a. A small nocturnal mammal  
b. Sicilian slang  
c. A chat-up line

Answers on page 46

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Agdestein-Hodgson, Hastings Premier 1991. As well as being a world class chess player, Norwegian grandmaster, Simen Agdestein, has also played international football. Here he demonstrates his chess skill with a fine finish. White to play and win.



Solution on page 46

Redpath has become the target of several English clubs

played only intermittently in international rugby.

The challenge for Redpath now is to forge an alliance with Gregor Townsend. Hitherto, he has partnered Craig Chalmers, his club stand-off half, but Scotland have opted for the electric Townsend and so Redpath must help him to adjust to the demands of a position which he has occu-

ped only intermittently in international rugby.

Already Townsend has expressed appreciation of his pass: Redpath is confident enough in his own speed of the mark to ask questions himself of opposing defences, though he will hope for better possession than that supplied by his pack against Italy A earlier this month.

England leave Richards in reserve

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SOMEWHAT to his surprise, Dean Richards will find himself in Paris this weekend, though not in the England team that will open the 1996 five nations' championship against France. The Leicester captain added to the squad at the weekend, takes his place among the replacements after the withdrawal of Tim Rodber.

On Sunday, there were doubts over Rodber, who was demoted to the bench after the game against Western Samoa, and Ben Clarke, the chosen No 8. Rodber damaged knee and ankle ligaments playing for Northampton, while a scan revealed that Clarke was carrying a groin injury. When England trained in bright sunshine at Roehampton yesterday, however, Clarke declared himself fit.

"There may be repercussions after training but Ben and the doctors are confident he will be fit," Jack Rowell, the team manager, said. "The rest and some treatment have done him good."

It is no criticism of Clarke to suggest that Richards, 32, would be a valuable asset at the Parc des Princes, given the

rudderless displays against South Africa and Western Samoa. After the defeat by New Zealand in the World Cup semi-final, there seemed to be no international future for Richards but he remains one of the commanding figures in the domestic game.

In training last Sunday, the work of the forwards lacked focus and even Rowell admitted that the qualities required against the French in Paris — where England last lost in 1988 — were the traditional framework in place and all they are doing is filling, rather than

replacing the spine of the team, which is what we are having to do."

England have prepared a video which concentrates on the two new centres, Thomas Castaignede and Richard Dourthe, who made so strong an impression during the autumn series against New Zealand. Rowell admires France's ability to introduce two 20-year-olds to international rugby, though he will look to the established pair of Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott to close them down.

"If we are underdogs for this game, we have not talked that way ourselves," Rowell said. "This will be a tough game, tough for France too. They have players new to the championship; they may take time to adjust."

If Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, can help it, Skrela hopes his side can prove that victory in the third-place play-off match in the World Cup in Pretoria was no fluke. "Toulouse showed [in the Heineken Cup final] you can impose your own game by playing total rugby," Skrela said. "It's up to us to follow their example."

## Lomu on wanted list

OVERSEAS players of the calibre of Jonah Lomu and Francois Pienaar have been approached to take part in the game at Twickenham on April 21 that will inaugurate the celebration of 125 years of the Rugby Football Union (David Hands' write).

Leicester, the 1995 league champions, will play an RFU President's XV designed to include two players from each of the leading rugby-playing countries, and certainly two from Japan, as Sanjo Electric will sponsor the match.

"We expect to receive £100,000 from the game, though a lot depends on the crowd," Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, said. "He is hoping for a crowd of 25,000, although if the guest XV includes players such as Philippe Sella and Michael Lynagh, who have also been approached, it may be larger."

The bigger the crowd, the more the leading clubs will benefit as Leicester intend to share some of the profits throughout the first division.









he musical  
log-book

# Mind your body language in Hollywood

First there was *Hollywood Women*. Then there was *Hollywood Kids*. Now we have *Hollywood Men* (ITV). What next? *Hollywood Pets*? Spot on apparently — ITV does indeed plan to bring us *Hollywood Pets* later this year. Now there's a date for your diary.

Call me a cynic but as I settled back for yet another dose of high speed, three-second-and-a-half television, the word "formula" sprang mysteriously to mind. Nothing as complex as our old friend *Fawlty* you understand. No, the truly marvellous proof unearthing by David Green and his team at September Films is this: Hollywood plus just about any collective noun equals showbiz, folks and ITV will buy as much as he can make.

The question is, are we happy to watch as much as he can make? Despite my best high-minded intentions, the answer for the first

two-thirds of last night's opening instalment (improbable there are three more to come) is yes. What happened in the final third? Well get to that later — you might still be eating your breakfast.

The format was utterly predictable (lots of Hollywood hunks talking about their favourite subjects — themselves) and so was the content of an episode entitled *Vanity and Vulgarism*. For while tinsel town's women worry about the two Ts (its and teeth, darling) its menfolk obsess over the two Ps — pecs and penes. Actually, there was a third P... but no, I still don't think we're quite ready for it.

What rescued the formula was the humour. Most of the subjects knew they were likely to be gently set up and if they didn't — well, Stephanie Beacham and Roseanne Barr were around to do a more brutal job.

And very good fun it all was, with the familiar and famous

being mixed in with a likeable bunch of unknown wannabes, variously captioned as actor/stripper, actor/limo driver and even, actor/world kick boxing champion. Collectively they talked us through their high maintenance lifestyle — the visits to the gym, the dentist (if you're worried about bed breath, check out the Halimeter) and the hairdresser. That, of course, is assuming you still have your own hair.

Unless you are Bruce Willis, being bald in Hollywood can seriously damage your wealth — toupees, wigs, weaves and implants, we saw them all. But, as Roseanne observed, there is a curious hierarchy to this hairy artifice. "The more powerful you are, the worse your rug can be," she had the pictures to prove it.

But as we moved on to plastic surgery (and learnt that one of the side-effects of male face-lifts is

having to shave behind your ears) I had a nasty feeling I knew where we were heading. Sure enough, part three was entirely devoted to the third P: the penis. Now, penis augmentation is a subject that has been extensively covered on Channel 4's late night shock shows — and the later the better as far as I am concerned. It is a seriously horrid operation, with a yuk factor approaching infinity.

## REVIEW

Matthew Bond



Far less forgivable, however, was the change of pace that accompanied the shift south. Suddenly the film slowed to a crawl, as an assortment of sad chaps held forth at disproportionate length about the unproven rights and painful wrongs of a particular surgeon's technique. The humour had gone, the energy had gone and, shortly afterwards, so had I.

Alternative therapies were on offer as *Under the Sun* (BBC2) continued its stimulating run with *The Witching Tree: Problems with Polymyopathy*? Then Mpapane is your man.

Mpapane is an *invanya*, a South African witch doctor — part healer, part herbalist, part agony aunt — and the film revealed an unexpected line of common sense running through the rituals that surround his work.

Faced with a man who was having trouble with two wives ("they keep fighting but I love them

both equally"), Mpapane consulted the bones, only to announce: "You must go home and settle the matter yourselves."

Understandably overwhelmed, the patient sprang his own surprise: "I don't have any money — not even for this session."

Mpapane looked an unhappy *invanya*, although he did cheer up later, when 170 workers from a sawmill turned up for help in settling disputes at work. Pragmatically, he identified the foremen as witches, the penalty for which was to be stripped, fined and covered in oil. That counted as getting off lightly, the film's rather unquestioning narration revealed that more than 100 people were burnt to death as witches last year.

This film, too, had a pretty high yuk factor, with a number of cures involving sharp encounters with rusty-looking razor blades. But these were as

nothing compared to the help meted out to an elderly gentleman looking to put an end to a run of bad luck that included a running attempt. He had a scapegoat (the original bleeding variety) sacrificed right on top of him. Lots more chanting and lots more common sense from the man with the knife: "Kneel over there, so you don't get blood on your underpants."

For the first 20 minutes or so, there seemed to have been a big improvement in *Video Nation* (BBC2), the camcorder volunteers for which now range from Lord Montagu of Beaufort to a homeless beggar. But as we progressed through their collective view of the alphabet of modern communities (A is for apathy, B for belonging) it was clear we were not going to stop, as the title had suggested, at *N* is for *Neighbours*. Long before we finally got there, I knew exactly what *Z* stood for: zzzzz...

BBC1	
6.00am Business Breakfast (50050)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast — News (Ceefax) (29806128)	
9.10 Kilroy. Studio discussion (s) (2942789)	
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6794875) 10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6189676)	
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (48147)	
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5228357) 12.05 Pebble Mill with Ross King (s) (6459683) 12.50 Regional News and weather (13188418)	
1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (61708)	
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (6422994) 1.50 The Flying Doctors. Australian medical drama. (Ceefax) (s) (1305418)	
2.35 This is Your Life (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4744321) 3.05 Timesleepers: Quiz (s) (5603673)	
3.30 The New Yogi Bear Show (r) (7516226)	
3.35 The Morph Files (s) (2922789)	
3.55 Peter Pan and the Pirates (r). (Ceefax) (s) (1904708) 4.10 Highlander. (Ceefax) (s) (123091) 4.25 The Really Wild Show. (Ceefax) (s) (9944573)	
5.00 Newsround. (Ceefax) (s) (4319895) 5.10 The Demon Headmaster. The final episode. (Ceefax) (s) (7505088)	
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (201876)	
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Jennie Bond. (Ceefax) Weather (401)	
6.30 Regional News Magazines (538)	
7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (7499)	
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (895)	
8.00 The Vet. A Vet at a Chance. Drama series about a Devon veterinary practice. (Ceefax) (s) (537321)	
8.50 Animal Hospital Heroes. Rolf Harris remembers some heartwarming stories from previous visits the vets and pets of the Hartswood Hospital in London. (Ceefax) (s) (595944)	
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (6692)	
9.30 French and Saunders. Dawn and Jennifer with another collection of comedy sketches. Tonight they pay irreverent homage to the Italian film director Federico Fellini. With guest appearances by Kate Moss, Sue Barker and Felicity Kendal. (Ceefax) (s) (68925)	
10.00 Inside Story: A Band is Born (r). (Ceefax) (s) (6570795) WALES: 10.00 The State (59147) 10.30 Inside Story (54321) 11.20 Question Time (167673) 12.20am-1.50 Film: Man on Fire (2187887)	
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11.00 FILM: Men on Fire (1987) starring Scott Glenn. A drama about a former CIA operative who takes on the job of bodyguard to a wealthy Italian couple and their 12-year-old child. When the kid is kidnapped he must call in his hero to rescue the youngster. With Jude Law, Joe Pesci, Brooke Adams and Jonathan Pryce. Directed by Elie Chouraqui (s) (251741) 1.20am. Weather (6222221)	
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Russians launch onslaught on rebels after declaring there is no hope for captives



A Grad rocket is fired by Russian forces yesterday towards the village of Pervomaiskoye as they kept up the military pressure on the Chechen rebel hostage-takers

## Rockets rain on hostage village

FROM CARLOTTA GALL  
IN PERVOMAIKOV  
THOMAS DE WAAL  
IN MOSCOW  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RUSSIAN forces set out to level the village of Pervomaiskoye yesterday with a blizzard of rockets, saying there was "little hope" for any hostages after three days of bloody fighting with Chechen rebels.

In blowing snow on the steppes around the ruined village, hundreds of weary federal troops pulled back, and the Russians unleashed volley after volley of powerful Grad rockets. The cluster of small buildings came under rocket attack from helicopter gunships and was struck by rounds of artillery shells. Heavy machinegun fire in the late afternoon signalled con-

### PERVOMAIKOV ATTACK

tinued Chechen resistance. "We are pulling the troops out," said the commander of the Alpha special forces unit, wearing the distinctive green helmet fitted with a two-way radio and mouthpiece.

"Twice SOBR went in and twice they withdrew," he said, speaking of the Interior Ministry's rapid reaction unit, which lead the attempt to overrun the village. "They had heavy machineguns everywhere," he said of the Chechens, explaining why Russian forces failed to hold their positions.

Others described the Chechens using an intricate system of trenches for protection, along which they moved their heavy machineguns. "It was tough," said another special

forces officer. "We took losses." The officer said that there were still a few hostages alive of the 70 or so remaining in the village. He saw two dead. "There are some. They are sitting in cellars in holes they have dug themselves."

His men, their faces grubby under their helmets, their cheeks speckled with red marks from firing their rifles, climbed on to waiting buses. "We are all getting out and then we are going to screw them with the Grads," said one of the commands.

Reporters were expelled by Russian military authorities from Pervomaiskoye and neighbouring villages yesterday. The region, in the republic of Dagestan, is just across the border from Chechnya.

The Russians began storming the village on Monday, breaking a five-day standoff and refusing the Chechen demands for safe passage to their homeland. At the time, authorities said they resorted to force because the gunmen were killing hostages — an allegation denied by separatist leaders in Chechnya.

Earlier yesterday, Russian officials again claimed that they escalated the conflict because hostages were being killed. Major-General Aleksandr Mikhailov, a spokesman for the Russian intelligence service, said the gunmen planned to kill the captives and try to escape. "Because the situation is becoming more complicated, we have decided to conclude the operation," he said. Asked about the hostages, he said: "We have little hope for them."

On the road leading to Pervomaiskoye, he said laconically that there were "no hostages" left in Pervomaiskoye and the military had decided to "conclude" the operation by force. "We're no longer talking about a hostage-freeing operation," he said.

The Russians said that 41 of an estimated 116 hostages had escaped the battle unharmed. They admitted having 18 soldiers killed and 60 wounded, but the real figure may be much higher.

President Yeltsin has been under intense pressure to end the crisis decisively, but the political initiative has been all on the side of his opposition. Duma deputies yesterday lambasted Mr Yeltsin for botching his whole policy on Chechnya. "Neither the people, nor the generals, nor

the soldiers are responsible for this," said Ramazan Abdulkopov, a deputy from Dagestan. "The politicians are."

A statement adopted by an overwhelming majority of deputies condemned the Chechens for using extreme forms of terrorist acts, but called on the Government "not to permit unjustified actions, which lead to the deaths of wholly innocent people".

Gennadi Seleznev, the Communist candidate for Speaker, was elected with 231 out of a possible 450 votes at the third attempt. His job carries no great constitutional powers, but it will give the Communists immense leverage over the new parliament.

Russian Public Television, the main state network, canceled all entertainment programming last night because of the fighting.

## Removal of 'last reformer' hits \$9bn IMF deal

### ECONOMY

By THOMAS DE WAAL  
A VISIT to Moscow by an International Monetary Fund delegation was in confusion yesterday as negotiations to sign a \$9 billion loan package coincided with the resignation of the last man to symbolise radical reform in the Russian Government.

The enforced departure of Anatoli Chubais, sole surviving Minister from President Yeltsin's reforming team of 1992, has sent Western financial institutions and embassies in Moscow into shock. Shares on the emerging stock market lost 7 per cent to 10 per cent of their value on the news. As First Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy, he was seen as the patron of Western investment.

Chubais made an amazing contribution to the progress of the Russian economy, both by pushing through the largest privatisation in any post-Communist country and by stabilising the inflation rate," said Richard Layard, of the London School of Economics, who advised the Russian Government in 1992 and was in Moscow as Mr Chubais was resigning. "He will be very difficult to replace."

Mr Chubais's removal is a clear sop to voters for the Communist Party, which topped the poll in last month's elections. One of the 1992 reform team, he has long been a hate-figure for the parliamentary opposition. Yesterday he said "The President takes decisions not because of macroeconomic results, but because of the mood of the electorate". The economy has shown signs of



Chubais: departure cut share prices

stabilisation in the past six months. The monthly inflation rate dropped to 3.2 per cent last month from almost 20 per cent at the start of 1995 and economic indicators suggest industrial production's fall is bottoming out. Now investors fear much of that may be in jeopardy.

Another Western economic expert in Moscow said Mr Chubais's departure was bad news because he was the "last protector" of junior ministers who were reforming the economy. Without his patronage their positions were virtually untenable, he said.

The embarrassment is all the greater for the IMF delegation. Its head, Yusuke Horiguchi, reportedly said the deal was unaffected, but even before the resignation, IMF officials had signalled their worries about a change in economic policy after the Communists' election success. The package is worth \$9 billion over three years and is the second largest in the organisation's history.

The deal was negotiated by Mr Chubais and there may be a strong temptation for the IMF to try to renegotiate parts or "backload" payments, offering the Government a small franchise this year in the hope of ensuring budgetary prudence while promising bigger payments next year.

For the first time since 1991, Mr Yeltsin is without a Western-leaning economist in a high government position. In the past ten days he has also got rid of his generally pro-Western Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, and his liberal chief of staff, Sergei Filatov.

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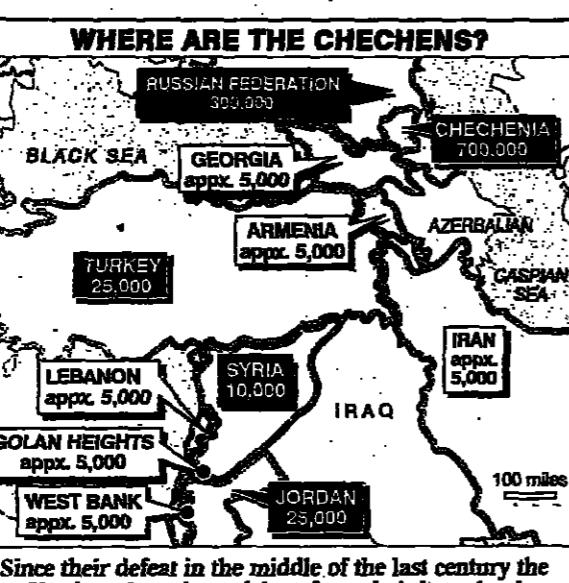
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Food for thought

BY MICHAEL BINYON

THE Council of Europe is likely again to reject Russia's application for membership because of the fighting in Chechnya. The 38-member body, considered the yardstick and guarantor of democratic standards in Europe, had postponed accession because of fighting in the breakaway Russian republic last year.

The council, under whose aegis the European Court of Human Rights hears cases of human rights violations, will meet next Thursday in its Strasbourg headquarters to consider Moscow's long-

standing application. One council official said yesterday that the renewed fighting would inevitably influence the decision.

Daniel Tarschys, the Swedish secretary-general, arrives in Moscow today. He will be accompanied by a representative of Denmark, which now holds the chairmanship of the council.

President Yeltsin has pressed hard for full membership of the council, and has expressed anger that other former communist countries have been admitted

while it has had only special guest status since its original application in May 1992. Moscow sees membership as proof that the West has fully accepted Russia as a democratic partner, and is increasingly furious at being kept in the waiting room.

On December 20 the political committee of the council's parliamentary assembly voted in favour of Russian accession. But the entire assembly needs to ratify the vote. In 1994, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the leader of the right-wing Liberal Democratic Party, caused outrage by his anti-Semitic outburst during a visit to Strasbourg.

# Ministers accused of corruption quit Rao Cabinet

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

THREE Cabinet ministers and the leader of India's main opposition party resigned last night as police moved to prosecute them in a £12 million bribery scandal.

The action against seven politicians, including a former Deputy Prime Minister, has stunned the political establishment in Delhi. Those who resigned last night were Madhav Rao Scindia, the Minister for Human Resource Development, and Vidya Charan Shukla, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, according to local news agencies.

Mr Scindia and Mr Shukla were two of the three ministers against whom federal police on Tuesday had requested permission to begin prosecutions in connection with the scandal. Balram Jakhar, the Agriculture Minister, had resigned earlier in the day.

The resignation of Lal K Advani, leader of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), as an MP to put pressure on the named ministers to quit clearly had the desired effect. He said he would not contest the general election expected in about three months unless he had been cleared of the charges. The BJP has seized on allega-

tions of corruption in P. V. Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress party as a key plank in its campaign for the polls.

The Central Bureau of Investigation said he and the other accused were involved in a £60 million rupee bribe scandal. The bureau operates under the direct authority of the Prime Minister, giving him a powerful tool to investigate his political enemies. It is inconceivable that the bureau would have acted without consulting him.

The Indian Express reported yesterday that Mr Rao had pulled off a coup of sorts with

the CBI filing a charge sheet against his political opponents. Mr Rao was asked if Congress would be tainted by the scandal. "It will tarnish the image of all those parties involved," the Prime Minister said.

Devi Lal, the former Deputy Prime Minister, who is one of those charged, said: "Charges were framed, keeping in mind the main challengers to the Prime Minister's chair."

The allegations stem from public interest litigation filed by an investigative journalist alleging illegal payment of foreign funds, or *hawala*, to public servants from 1988 to 1991.

The bureau said the politicians were charged with "abettment to corruption", which meant accepting illegal gifts or bribes. About 115 leading politicians and civil servants have been named in a petition before the Supreme Court. The accused say that the charges have been brought as a pre-election ploy.

Dipankar Gupta, the Solicitor-General, told a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court: "Investigations against the remaining politicians, bureaucrats and others is continuing and further action is expected to be taken shortly."

The allegations relate to foreign currency transactions involving overseas firms that won large government contracts. The Supreme Court in 1993 ordered the bureau to pursue investigations into the case after journalists filed a public interest petition saying that the inquiry had been halted because it involved political people.

The court, in upholding the petition, ordered that progress in the case should be reported every month to the Chief Justice.

Mr Advani led a protest march by supporters of his Hindu right-wing party from the parliament building in Delhi yesterday.

The BJP is the principal election in the coming election, he said. "These charges have been filed on the eve of the election. It is a cooked-up case, a frame-up."

He added that the stigma associated with extramarital sex in India prevented people from having blood tests until the infection was advanced. In 1986, the Government broadcast foreign-made Aids warnings, but these were considered too explicit and withdrawn. Since then, there have been no public service messages.

## Aids campaign move

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

INDIA has set up a national Aids committee to co-ordinate an erratic campaign against the spread of HIV.

The first official attempt to tackle growing infection rates has meant sidestepping some taboos: there is now official admission that homosexuality and prostitution are widespread and that India is becoming the epicentre of the world Aids crisis.

With 65,000 prostitutes in red-light areas in Bombay, for example, and an estimated 90 per cent not insisting on their clients using condoms, India is heading for an Aids epidemic worse than Africa's. The Indian Health Organisation says that there will be 20 million to 50 million HIV-

positive people in four years. Dr I. S. Gilada, the secretary-general of the organisation, said an estimated 85 per cent of transmissions of HIV were through heterosexual contact. Homosexuals accounted for 3 per cent, 5 per cent came from transfusions of infected blood and most of the rest from intravenous drug abuse.

He added that the stigma associated with extramarital sex in India prevented people from having blood tests until the infection was advanced. In 1986, the Government broadcast foreign-made Aids warnings, but these were considered too explicit and withdrawn. Since then, there have been no public service messages.

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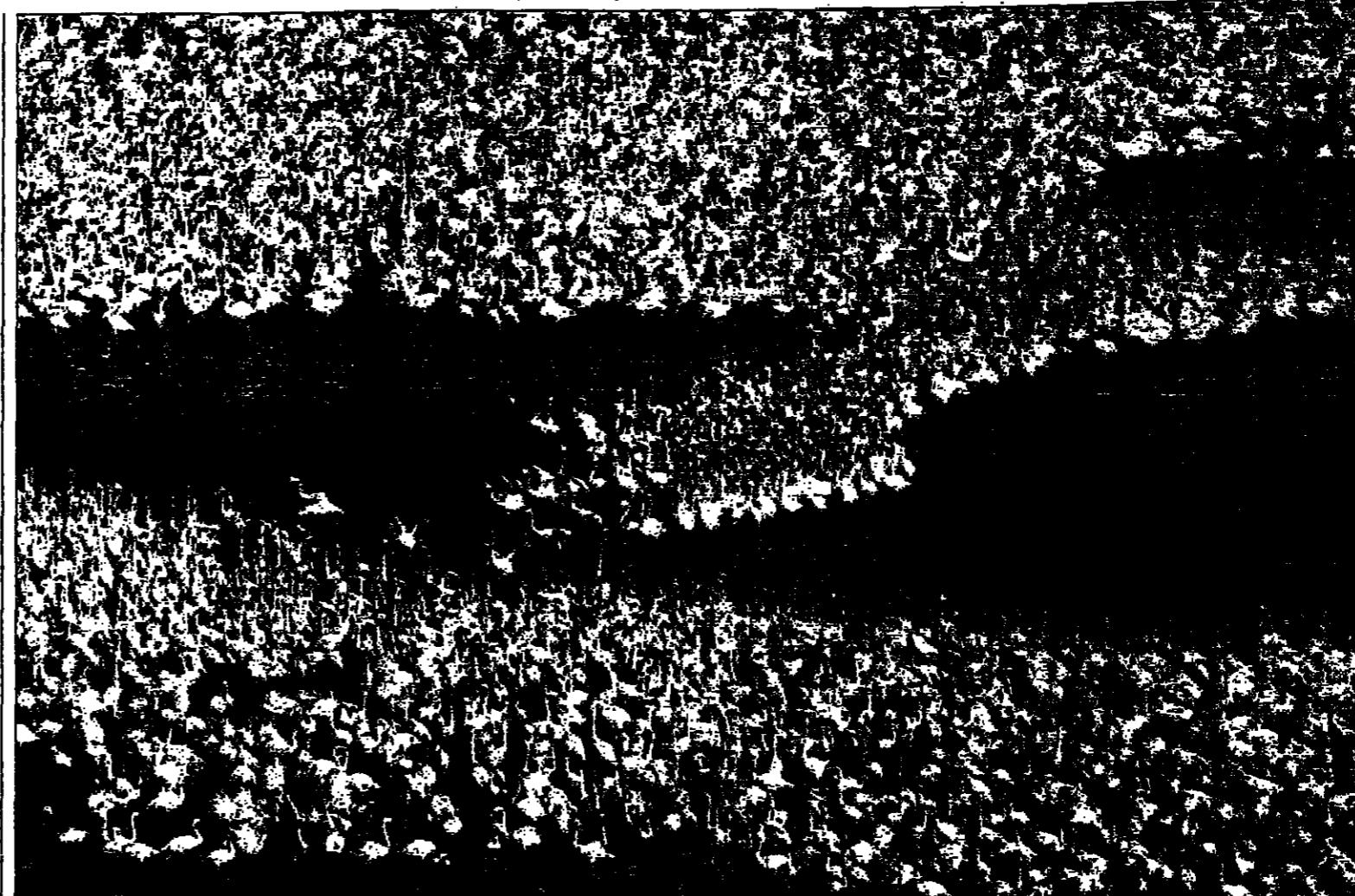
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## Mystery of missing flamingos

by SAM KILEY

Flamingo flocks like this are disappearing at an alarming rate from Kenya's Rift Valley, raising fears that pollution could be threatening the birds' survival - and tourist income (Sam Kiley writes).

Most badly hit is Lake Nakuru.

One of the wonders of the natural

world, the rose-coloured carpet of

lesser flamingos feeding there has

been reduced to a tea towel. A census last week showed numbers had fallen from 1.9 million to 30,000. People in the area blame a drastic drop in the lake's water level and sewage and industrial pollution. Tourist lodges in Lake Nakuru National Park have

laid off workers because of a 40 per cent fall in visitors to see the birds feeding. "There is no conclusive evidence yet about what has happened to the chemistry of the highly alkaline lakes," said Oliver Nasirwa from the National Museum of Ke-

nya's department of ornithology.

Lakes Bogoria and Elementaita, far from large towns, have also suffered a drop in flamingo numbers of up to 80 per cent.

This weekend there will be a census

at Lake Magadi, near the Tanzanian border. Mr Nasirwa said: "We simply don't know where they have gone."

## Portugal saves ice age engravings

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN PORTO

PORUGAL has "permanently postponed" a half-built £300 million dam that would have destroyed the world's largest site of ice age engravings.

The engravings were discovered in a remote valley just over a year ago and archaeologists already believe the area, in the northeast near Foz Cua, may unlock secrets not only about what Stone Age man did, but what he thought.

At the launch in Porto of a 600-page book on the engravings, Manuel Maria Carrilho, the Culture Minister in the three-month-old Socialist Government, thanked *The Times* for leading the international campaign to save the thousands of engravings from

the hydroelectric scheme. He added that the area will be a national park.

Senhor Carrilho accused the previous Government of being arrogant about the controversy, saying: "There is no doubt that if the SDP [Social Democratic Party] had won the elections, they would have continued the dam... the country was divided fifty-fifty over the engravings because there was much local newspaper speculation that supported the SDP and questioned the authenticity of the engravings. But international experts [consulted by *The Times*] had weight and public opinion shifted in our favour."

"Now we will create a park

as part of a regional development plan. It will have a cultural centre, youth hostel and young people will be trained as guides. We will continue studying the engravings and protect them. They are our history, our heritage and our roots. We must preserve our patrimony."

It is understood unofficially that the Government will eventually force the state electricity company to abandon the dam project. Antonio Guterres, the Prime Minister, wants to protect the environment and rethink a massive construction programme that has been transforming Portugal, not always for the better.

"One can see how people used the landscape. Like the Aborigines in Australia, they did not build monuments but, turned the whole landscape into a monument. Cua is the only place in the world where we can see this."

## Iraqi offer surprises oil traders

New York: Iraq offered yesterday to renew talks with the United Nations on selling limited amounts of oil to buy food for its suffering population (James Bone writes).

The move by Baghdad threw the oil market into confusion and prompted speculation that President Saddam Hussein's regime was running out of cash.

But it was unclear whether Iraq would agree to the "oil-for-food" scheme spelt out by the Security Council. The resolution permits Iraq to sell \$1 billion (£649 million) worth of oil every three months provided most of the crude is shipped by pipeline across Turkey, and some proceeds go towards helping the Kurds.

## Alan Bond heads for fraud trial

Perth: Alan Bond, once one of Australia's richest men, has been ordered to stand trial in March for what prosecutors claim is the country's biggest ever corporate fraud case. Mr Bond and co-accused Peter Mitchell, an executive from his now defunct Bond Corporation, have pleaded innocent. The two men are accused of conspiring to defraud another company, Bell Resources Ltd, of \$Aus1 billion (about £50 million). (AP)

## HIV woman may bid for Congress

Washington: Judith Billings, 56, the schools superintendent in Washington State who became HIV-positive more than a decade ago while trying to become pregnant by using donor sperm, may run for Congress this year. The liberal Democrat, who will decide by March whether to challenge the sitting Republican, said: "We need grown-ups in Congress."

## Chun tries to overturn law

Seoul: Chung Doo Hwan, the former South Korean President on trial for plotting a coup 16 years ago, began a battle to nullify the law, adopted last month, that excluded presidential terms from the 15-year statute of limitations. He called it retroactive and thus unconstitutional. (AP)

## THE TIMES ABERLOUR CROSSWORD CHAMPIONSHIP

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THURSDAY JANUARY 18

Special new Pairs category

This year you may enter with a partner in a new pairs competition which will run alongside the existing singles championship.



Violent end: the demise of Nebula NGC 7027

the photograph we were astounded by detail," said Dr Howard Bond of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. The Sun of our solar system has five billion years to go before it begins to turn into something like NGC 7027.

Competition from other women's magazines has increased, with many rivals using the Gurley Brown formula of sex, fashion and tips on how to keep your man. Mrs Gurley Brown is well qualified on that point, having been married to the same husband for 37 years.

The next editor of the American *Cosmopolitan*, was announced as Bonnie Fuller, 39, editor of the American *Marie Claire*. Hearst Magazines said that the two women would work alongside each other for 18 months, with Mrs Gurley Brown training Fuller.

One commentator said that the time lag gave Mrs Gurley Brown "enough rope to hang her successor", but other sources wonder how long the older woman will be able to endure the arrangement, and expect her to leave early.

Not for her the man-hating, plain-faced doorness of certain feminists. Her 1962 bestseller *Sex and the Single*

was a huge success, and she has continued to write and speak on women's issues. Her latest book, *Sex and the Single*, was published in 1994, and she has since written several more books, including *Sex and the Single* (1995) and *Sex and the Single* (1996). She has also written for various publications, including *Marie Claire*, *Elle*, and *Time*.

She has also appeared on television shows, including *Good Morning America* and *Today*.

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## Elizabeth's story



■ Today we continue our exclusive serialisation of *Elizabeth*, with an insight into the way in which the turbulent marriages of Charles and Andrew brought the Queen to the very brink of despair

# 'The Queen did not like Diana much'

DIANA AND SARAH: RELATIONSHIPS ON THE ROCKS

**E**lizabeth's indulgence of her daughters-in-law, the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York, was a worry to the Royal Household.

Whenever they wanted anything, Diana and Sarah would simply go to her over the heads of the Household and wheedle: "Oh, Ma'am, please, just this once... the Household hate me," and so on. If approached from the other side, Elizabeth would say: "I can't interfere in my children's lives."

Although aware of the rumours about Sarah's behaviour with the Texan, Steven Wyatt (which her husband Prince Andrew steadfastly refused to believe), Elizabeth did not, apparently, know of the pact which both her daughters-in-law had made to separate from their husbands, according to Sarah's father, Major Ronald Ferguson, who told his mistress Lesley Player about it in the spring of 1991. But at Sandringham that Christmas, Andrew and Sarah told her of their decision to separate on the grounds of incompatibility.

Calm but openly "disappointed", Elizabeth asked them to wait six months before taking an irreversible decision. Privately, however, she was stunned. "I can't understand my children," she told a friend. "She [Sarah] didn't even try to be a naval wife..."

**F**or Elizabeth, the period she had spent in Malta as a young naval wife had been one of the happiest experiences of her life. Although there were other aspects of the failure of the marriage which, sadly, she did not comprehend, her daughter-in-law's selfish have-it-all attitude was simply alien to her. Her eyes were beginning to be opened as far as the Duchess of York was concerned.

"Fergie isn't as nice as you think she is," a royal relation said. Sarah wanted sex, money, fun and excitement and she was prepared to sacrifice everything in order to get them. Incredibly, this woman was capable of self-delusion to the extent that she told her father later: "I'm 34, nearly 35, and I haven't lived my life at all..."

Even as Elizabeth delivered her Christmas 1991 broadcast, she knew that her family life was crumbling around her, although she was not fully aware of the extent of the dissolution.

One phrase of that broadcast, intended as an affirmation of her continuing determination to go on serving the nation after 40 years on the Throne, was to come back to haunt her: "With your prayers and your help, and the love and support of my family, I shall try and help you in the years to come." (This was interpreted by various sections of the press as a slap in the face for Charles, sending a public signal that she did not intend to abdicate in his favour. It was no such thing: Elizabeth never has had any intention of abdicating and never will.)

There had already been one marital split in the family when, in 1989, Anne had separated from Mark Phillips; there had been a certain amount of scandal, first concerning one of Anne's detectives, then when letters written to her by one of the Palace equerries, her future husband, Commander Tim Laurence,

were stolen and taken to a tabloid newspaper.

Meanwhile, Mark Phillips had his own problems with allegations of affairs and a love-child. But Anne's popularity as one of the hardest-working members of the Royal Family (particularly for the Save the Children Fund) had seen her through. Mark Phillips behaved with dignity: the split had been amicable and the marriage was to be legally dissolved in April. Now Elizabeth knew there was to be a second marriage failure.

The publication of Andrew Morton's book *Diana: Her*

which had made them rich and celebrated.

Elizabeth went on as usual, publicly serene but privately both furious and deeply troubled.

The traditional ceremony for the celebration of her official birthday, Trooping the Colour, went ahead as if nothing had happened, with the Princess of Wales part of the family party on the Palace balcony for the RAF fly-past. Privately, however, both Elizabeth and Philip, who had been at pains not to take sides, rallied to Charles, and Philip wrote him a "long and sympa-

thetic letter" praising his "saint-like fortitude".

At Royal Ascot the following week, Philip for the first time showed hostility towards Diana, refusing either to look at her or speak to her. In private, Elizabeth and her son discussed for the first time whether he should take the initiative and separate from his wife. He consulted Lord Goodman, a celebrated lawyer and "fixer", about the implication of such a move, but for the moment did not know what to do.

At Ascot the disgraced Sarah took her daughters to wave to their grandmother as the royal procession moved down the course before the races. Elizabeth waved but inwardly she must have felt despairing at yet another public manifestation of what the press now liked to call her "dysfunctional" family (on the following race day, Andrew loyally joined his wife and daughters on the rails).

The royal show went on as if nothing had happened, but behind the scenes the atmosphere could have been cut with a knife. Guests at lunch noted that Elizabeth, unsurprisingly, seemed to be "in a pretty bad temper". There was an awkward atmosphere and before lunch the Queen stood alone with a semicircle of guests around her, none of whom were brought up to talk to her. With the exception of Blair Stewart Wilson, the Master of the Household, royal staff made no attempt to put the guests at ease.

**S**arah wanted sex, money, fun and excitement — and she was prepared to sacrifice everything

fluffy flock.

The idea that the Princess of Wales, living apart from her husband and at daggers drawn with him, might be crowned Queen Consort struck most people as absurd. The bald statement that the Prince of Wales's succession as head of the Church of England was also unaffected, although strictly constitutionally correct, also required some swallowing and it was not long before leading clerics came out publicly to say so.

Unfortunately for the

ham for Christmas 1993, was seen to be "turning" when the photographers massed to take pictures of Diana and packed up as soon as they had done so, ignoring the rest of the family. Although normally uninterested in publicity, she now took their attitude as a slight.

Inside the house the atmosphere was tense and quarrelsome. At tea over Victorian tables loaded with delicious cakes and scones, there were family spats. Charles, the proud father, boasted how William had shot 20 pheasants. "That's rubbish," shouted Andrew. "I know it was only 15." Philip, who in the wake of the Waleses' separation had written his son some tough and unpalatable letters, for once leapt to Charles's defence: "Andrew, why do you always have to be so tiresome?"

Easter that year had been a low point for Elizabeth. For a person who so rarely revealed her feelings, she made it clear at small private dinner parties how depressed she was by the family situation and its repercussions.

● Edited extracts from *Elizabeth: A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen*, to be published by William Heinemann on January 24.

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women. As Major Ferguson had written, insinuatingly, even when photographs had surfaced of Wyatt with Sarah and her two daughters in the South of France, the Duke's response had not been hostile but rather: "There, but for the Royal Family found impossible to forgive. The whole royal myth which Elizabeth had worked so hard to build up had started to unravel because of the "me" impulses of two young women who had voluntarily entered the circle, enjoyed all its privileges, and then turned on the system.

Sarah's indecent, uncontrolled blunderings seemed more forgivable than Diana's shrewd manipulation of the media and her appeal to the wider public who adored her. Neither of them seemed to have given a moment's thought to the institution



Public smiles: Elizabeth with Charles and Diana — but her son's new fiancée never felt accepted by the Palace

## TOMORROW

■ Marriage, the early days



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Miners' compensation may lead to more claims

## White with anger

THE miners have won their case to receive compensation for white finger disease, also known as Raynaud's phenomenon of occupational origin or vibration induced white fingers (VWF).

Although occupational VWF was first described in 1911, when it was noticed that American workers who used pneumatic chisels for stone cutting developed arterial spasm in their fingers, its relevance to mining was only realised comparatively lately. In Britain in the 1930s people who used pounding machinery in boot and shoe factories often developed Raynaud's. Initially, all those who suffered had been using tools which were power hammers. Later, those like the miners, who used cutting equipment which had a revolving action, also became victims.

Any machine which causes a rapid vibration may be a cause, since arteries can respond adversely to a wide range of vibrations.

As well as shoe workers, stone cutters, people using polishing machinery in the aerospace industry and chain saw operators, a host of other workers in smaller trades must have also developed VWF and can expect to suffer deaf, painful, useless fingers if they go out into the cold or if they become stressed. The miners may have set a precedent for a great many claims.

However, there are more cases of Raynaud's in cigarette smokers than in miners and it is found more often in women



MEDICAL  
BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas  
Stuttaford

The ear, nose and tongue may show similar changes.

Repeated attacks may leave the fingers looking shiny, smooth and claw-like.

The cause of this primary Raynaud's is unknown and as many as 90 per cent of sufferers are female, usually young women. In secondary Raynaud's the use of vibrating machinery is only one of the many causes. One of the most important is the rheumatic disorder systemic sclerosis, affecting 10 per cent of all sufferers with progressive loss of tissue in their fingers, coupled with tightening of the skin in the fingers and on the face. Arterial changes in the vessels leading to the lungs, oesophagus, intestinal tract, kidney and heart can also occur.

In other instances Raynaud's can be secondary to the use of drugs including betablockers, nicotine and oral contraceptives, and to a wide variety of other diseases.

### Facing a shock in the mirror

ONE OF my patients is a personable but tough Scottish international salesman. He attributes his success to his open face and ready smile. One night last autumn he went to bed suffering from a slight cold. Next morning he was horrified to find that half his face was paralysed: one of his eyes would not close properly and his enriching smile was replaced by a lop-sided grimace and drooping mouth. He had Bell's palsy, paralysis of the muscles supplied by the facial nerve.

Although the onset of the palsy is often associated with a cough, cold or minor infection, the root cause is unknown, but the possibility that it follows a viral infection has always been considered likely. Now researchers in Japan suggest that the cause is the herpes simplex virus, which is responsible for the common cold sore and genital herpes. They report in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* finding evidence of herpetic infection in 11 out of 14 cases of Bell's palsy. It is suggested that treatment should include acyclovir, an anti-viral agent, together with heavy doses of steroids.

### Alarms about heavy metals

IN Stradbrooke, Suffolk, there is a worry about lead in the glazing on porcelain beer mugs. In America anxiety still centres on mercury in tooth fillings. Whatever its nature, concern about heavy-metal poisoning has been a source of alarm for centuries. Dental surgeons deny that the standard amalgam filling, a mercury alloy, can result in mercury poisoning; and scientific evidence supports them. But in America, demand for gold fillings rose by almost 20 per cent last year.

Popular mythology suggests that chronic mercury poisoning from tooth fillings can undermine a person's sex life, ruin their gums and cause loss of memory. In the past 30 years there have been major outbreaks of poisoning from eating fish caught in mercury-polluted seas or bread made from seeds sprayed with mercury dressings.

Chronic mercury poisoning causes a staggering walk, a tremor, difficulty in speaking, sore gums and mouth, and a loss of intellect. The term "mad as a hatter" comes from the insanity that used to afflict hat-makers who used mercury in preparing felt.

**A** missed diagnosis can be serious. Dr James Le Fanu on the illnesses that often get overlooked

IT IS A great misfortune to be afflicted by some malady for which neither doctors nor their panoply of sophisticated tests can find a cause. Sooner or later it will be made clear that, as they can find nothing wrong, the symptoms must be psychosomatic or a manifestation of hypochondriasis. But what if this verdict is wrong? The consequences are well illustrated by two cases, the first of which, Florence Nightingale, is remembered as one of history's more famous invalids.

The reputation of this remarkable woman has always suffered from the charge that her personal life was the antithesis of the virtues she promoted in public. Her aims may have been loving and humanitarian, her administrative gifts exceptional, her writings a masterpiece of lucidity and common sense, but her personal relationships were cold and her attitude to others tyrannical.

**T**hese personality traits became particularly marked after her return from the Crimea at the age of 37, when she became a chronic invalid, rarely rising from her bed. It has been alleged by her biographers that this was a sophisticated form of malingering, a means by which she could better manipulate those around her.

"Her indeterminate illnesses did not give her doctors much to work on," observes the historian, Professor F. B. Smith. "It remains indisputable that whenever Miss Nightingale announced herself to be ill, she was busy."

History, it seems, owes Miss Nightingale an apology. Her illness was genuine, the cause of not only great physical

distress but also of a profound melancholia which, together, more than explain the change in her personality.

The vital clue argues Dr David Young, formerly principal scientist at the Wellcome Foundation, lies in the severe feverish illness to which she succumbed while in the Crimea and which left her emaciated, pale and extremely weak.

Though labelled Crimean fever at the time, there is little doubt that this was brucellosis, caused by milk contaminated with the brucella bacterium which, though rare in Britain, remains an occupational hazard, especially for farmers.

After the acute illness, brucellosis persists in the body. According to Dr Young, the description of Miss Nightingale's invalidity on her return to England is consistent with the chronic form of the infection, punctuated by relapses every few years.

Brucellosis attacks the nerves and joints, especially of the lower back, leading to severe and at times incapacitating pain. It can also cause less specific symptoms which may be misinterpreted as psychosomatic, including depression, loss of appetite, palpitations and nervous tremors. can be dismissed as hypochondriasis.

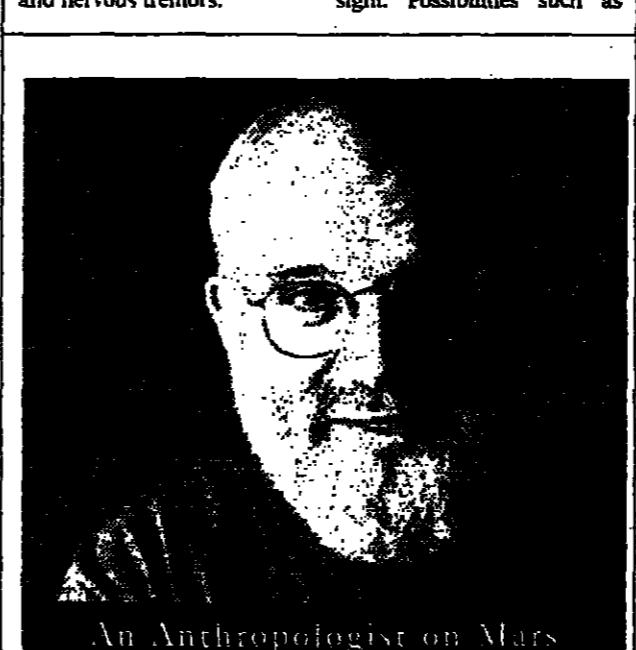
As the editor of the *British Medical Journal*, Dr Iikka Virtiovaara had excellent medical connections but they proved to be of little help when, in 1987, he developed a range of puzzling symptoms. It started with pains in the joints, followed by a permanent sensation of cold, then an alteration in the sensation of the skin and deteriorating eyesight. Possibilities such as

multiple sclerosis and brain cancer were considered, along with other illnesses, but all scans and tests proved negative.

**H**e recalls in *The Lancet*: "I knew I was seriously ill but transferring this belief to my colleagues was not easy. I left myself gradually becoming a 'problem patient'. The dissatisfaction of my doctors could be clearly read between the lines, in their words and the furrows on their faces. Eventually, the hospital said there was nothing more they could do."

Nowadays, brucellosis can be diagnosed with antibody tests and cured with antibiotics, but sometimes the symptoms of a chronic infection can be dismissed as hypochondriasis.

As the editor of the *British Medical Journal*, Dr Iikka Virtiovaara had excellent medical connections but they proved to be of little help when, in 1987, he developed a range of puzzling symptoms. It started with pains in the joints, followed by a permanent sensation of cold, then an alteration in the sensation of the skin and deteriorating eyesight. Possibilities such as



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Tom Rhodes in Washington  
on the latest political storm

## A slip which could cost Dole the presidency

THE BLIZZARDS that have swathed Washington in 3ft of snow claimed their most political victim this week when Elizabeth Dole, wife of the leading Republican presidential candidate, slipped on ice and fractured her wrist while out walking the dog.

For Mrs Dole, who has briefly left the presidency of the American Red Cross to pursue her husband's final attempt at the White House, the injury has proved a minor irritation that should be in time for the campaigning ahead.

A simultaneous political storm, emerging from a long career that has left a trail of policy decisions and private financial transactions, is unlikely to blow away with such ease.

Already *The New Yorker* magazine has turned its spotlight on her past, suggesting she had benefited financially from special treatment because of the political activities of her husband, Senator Robert Dole.

Elizabeth Dole at 59 is fast becoming the most compelling feature of her spouse's campaign, the Republican answer to Hillary Clinton.

Before the fracture, Mrs Dole had started a tour of the country. Not, as in Mrs Clinton's case, to promote a soul-searching book on children and consciously deflate an image of hardened haridan, but rather to insist on a new role for America's First Lady.

At each stop, after a reading of the impressive credentials of the only woman to serve in separate Cabinet posts for different Administrations, hosts would introduce Mrs Dole with the identical mantra: "She plans to return to her post as president of the American Red Cross upon her husband's election."

Mrs Dole, married for 20 years to the current Senate majority leader, puts it slightly differently. "There will be two President Doles if Bob is elected. He will be President of the United States, and I'll be president of the Red Cross."

While some see Mrs Dole's approach as refreshing, it has already created its own set of problems and conflicts of interest.



Elizabeth Dole

*The New Yorker* controversy, raising issues that surfaced during Mr Dole's presidential campaign in 1988, centres on David Owen, for 20 years one of the senator's closest aides in Kansas before he was convicted of tax fraud.

He spent much of that time managing Mrs Dole's personal investments, placing them in a blind trust while she served in government. The magazine suggests that Mrs Dole was given special treatment on several occasions.

Mrs Dole has dismissed the allegations and Mr Owen has said she was not actually told of blind-trust investments prior to any transaction.

The Doles have made every attempt to minimise the relationship they once had with Mr Owen, a course strikingly similar to that taken by the Clintons with once-favoured associates in Arkansas.

More than that, the revelations have come at a time when American politics is being governed by semantics. If pundits throughout the country are debating whether 60 hours of work in Arkansas by Hillary Clinton can be described as "minimal", should not Elizabeth Dole, a trained lawyer with top-flight degrees from Duke and Harvard who spent time at Oxford, be expected to read her own financial statements?

This may be the first electoral reminder that beneath the charming southern veneer of Elizabeth Dole lies an ambition that has already taken her to the top of the departments of transportation and labour, as well as the American Red Cross. She has harboured ambitions for the presidency as well as the vice-presidency and, since student days, has wanted to be married to the President of the United States.

Until now, the woman described by Lyndon B. Johnson as "a sugar-coated magnolia" has managed to disguise her single-minded intent, but just as conservative America thought it had seen the back of one dabbled First Lady, another is apparently waiting chameleon-like in the wings.

Little did Valerie Grove know how big an impact writing Dodie Smith's biography would have on her own life

"I WRITE THIS sitting in the kitchen sink." Until recently I had never read the famous opening line of Dodie Smith's *I Capture the Castle*, but every woman I met (and several men) had. It had been in print for 45 years, a favourite with young girls and their mothers. Antonia Fraser told me it contained the most erotic scene ever written: Armistead Maupin based a novel on its format; and even the unromantic Alan Brien (the least sentimental man in the world, as his wife Jill Tweedie said) thought it a strangely beguiling work.

Then I was asked to write Dodie Smith's biography by the novelist Julian Barnes, her literary executor.

I had imagined the dog-loving Dodie to be a sweet little old lady, the author of 1930s plays like *Dear Octopus*, later an admired autobiographer of her flapper-girl youth on the stage, and as a salesgirl at Heal's in the 1920s.

Early in 1991 I happened to be interviewing Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies on her 100th birthday, for *The Times*. After leaving her cottage I was driven back to Audley End station, and we passed a thatched cottage, closed and shuttered: "That was Dodie Smith's house." She had died six months before. "What happened to her last dalmatian?" I asked. I was told that Charley had died of a broken heart.

A few months later Julian Barnes rang. The hall of his house was now cluttered with Dodie's papers, to be shipped to Boston University. Carmen Callil, Julian said, wanted to publish a biography. She told me: "Read *I Capture the Castle*, then you'll do it."

She was right. I was captivated by so many others from page two, where Rose, the more beautiful of the two sisters who live in penury in a Suffolk castle, says she will go on the streets if necessary, to make some money, and Cassandra retorts briskly that she can't very well go on the streets in the depths of Suffolk. It was sharp and witty and full

of bizarre characters — and I knew that Dodie herself would be an interesting character. I did not realise how interesting. After reading all her books and meeting her surviving friends, I got to snowbound Boston in February 1994. Her diaries, which ran to millions of words, revealed that the lover she had called "Oliver" in her published memoirs was in fact Sir Ambrose Heal, the Terence Conran of his day. He already had a wife and a rather grand mistress, Lady Maufe, but Dodie told him shamelessly she would be content with "crumble from a rich man's table". The character of "a young girl poised between childhood and adultery" re-surfaced again and again in her novels.

There was also the fag-haggery. Dodie's circle of friends were almost all gay: Isherwood, John van Druten, Noel and Birkin etc. She preferred her menfolk untrammelled by wives and children — she never wanted children herself. Isherwood regarded her as one of the few people he could discuss his work with. When she came home from her long exile in America, she became fascinated by Julian Barnes, who arrived in 1969 at her cottage aged 22, a friend of her husband's half-sister Lauren: hence his literary executorship.

Several reviewers have remarked on what an unsympathetic creature Dodie was — selfish, egotistical, nagged by her lost fame and success when plays like *Dear Octopus* were superseded by angry young playwrights. But for a biographer this was a rich vein. It was in a state of furious resentment that she wrote *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* in 1956. When Disney bought it for his cartoon film, one of the most successful and money-spinning ever, it kept her going financially for years. And Pongo and Cruella de Vil have joined the immortals of children's literature.

There are two cheering postscripts to my story of a storyteller.

The first was that the moment I finished the book, I acquired a dalmatian puppy whom we named Beezie (Dodie's married name was Beezie) who happens to be the best-looking, best-natured dog in the world.

INSIDE SECTION  
2  
Drinking himself to an Oscar? Nicolas Cage's performance in *Leaving Las Vegas* is reviewed by Geoff Brown  
Page 37



Dodie Smith and Charley, her last dog: nagged by her lost fame, she wrote *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* in a state of furious resentment

the film was never made.

At last, while I was writing the book, Dodie's estate managed to exchange the rights to *Capture the Castle* for Disney's right to remake *101 Dalmatians*.

When I heard this, last February, I wrote to the film director, Mike Newell, who was in Hollywood because of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*'s Oscar nominations. I picked Newell because he had used my drawing-room to shoot a scene of a previous *succès d'ou* of his,

*Enchanted April*. I thought he dealt beautifully with Elizabeth von Arnim's exquisite novel about four women who leave dreary London for an Italian palazzo, and I thought he might work a similar translation to the screen for Dodie's oddly beguiling little masterpiece.

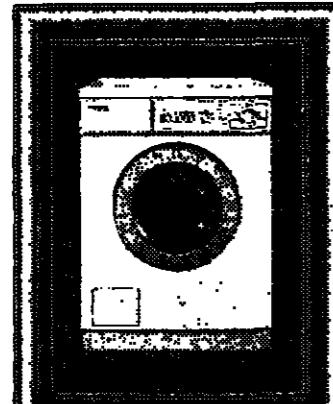
Last week I heard the thrilling news that Mark Shivas has secured *I Capture the Castle* as a feature film for BBC Films, and Mike Newell is indeed going to direct it. I wonder who will play the 17-year-old Cassandra? A terrific role for some budding mega-

star. (In 1954, when it had a brief run as a play at the Aldwych Theatre, Cassandra was played by Virginia McKenna, who won plaudits even from hard-hearted critics like Ken Tynan.)

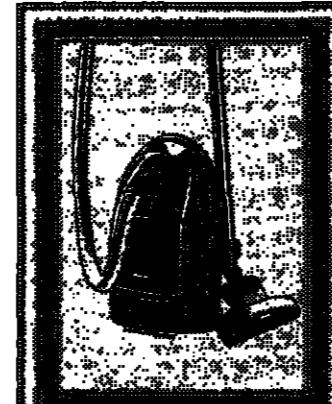
We shall see. It is certainly going to be a very good year for Dodie Smith — her centenary year. And she would have loved seeing *I Capture the Castle* on screen at last.

• Dear Dodie by Valerie Grove is published this week by Chatto & Windus at £20. There is a Kaleidoscope Special on Dodie Smith on Radio 4, Saturday 7.30pm

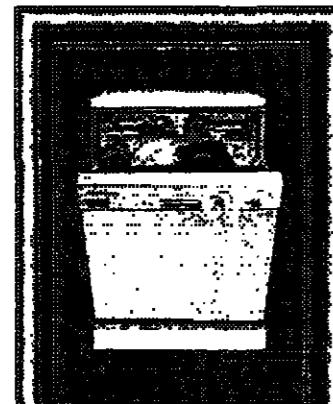
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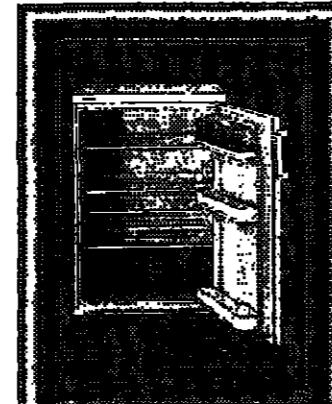
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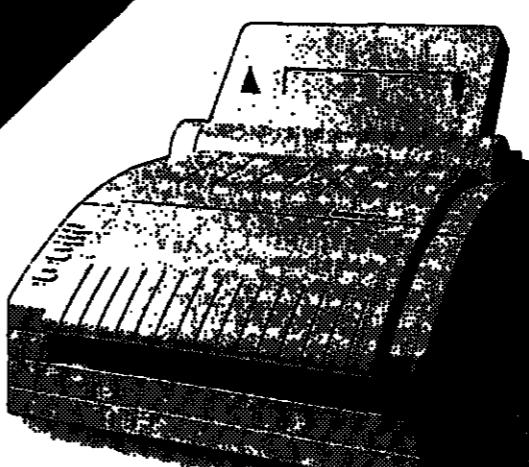
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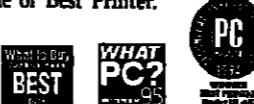
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# Government by patriots, not quislings

Max Beloff calls for a coalition against European federalism

We find ourselves, at the beginning of 1996, in a very muddled political situation, in which serious argument has little place and much time and energy are devoted to shadow-boxing, both between parties and within them. One reason is that the commentators on whom we rely to explain what is going on are inhibited by a political vocabulary which does not fit the current picture. Why, after all, should we, more than 200 years after they were first coined in relation to France's revolutionary assembly, go on using "Left" and "Right", as though all the issues that divide us could conveniently be encompassed by these terms? They barely help with understanding the Labour Party; they make no sense at all when applied to the Conservatives.

The reason is not just the passage of time, but the fact that the all-important question of the day to which answers are required concerns Britain's relations with the rest of Europe. How that question is answered determines everything else. The fact that "Europe" usually appears quite low down when the voters are polled on what they think of as most important merely indicates that our leaders have not so far managed to explain why this question is so crucial — though there is some evidence that, both here and on the Continent, understanding of the matter is beginning to make strides.

The reason the importance of the issue is still underestimated is that a question cutting across lines of class and party is very rare and usually confined to wartime. The fashionable comparison of divisions in the Conservative Party to the Corn Law crisis of the 1840s is absurd. That crisis was the product of circumstances and personalities unique to that juncture in the nation's affairs. The decision to embark upon a policy of free trade had repercussions upon other political decisions still to come, but it did not determine them.

The question raised in relation to Britain's European role is of another order of magnitude. It is the kind of question that nations usually confront only when at war. The inhabitants of a country overrun by a conqueror have to choose between accepting his authority (collaboration) and denying it (resistance in the hope of liberation). The arguments can be ambiguous in their translation into action, as the recent reminders of the late François Mitterrand's role in the Vichy period have made abundantly plain.

What is clear also is that all other questions of policy fall into abeyance for the conquered nation, since its policies will be determined by the will of the conqueror. From Napoleon's Europe to Hitler's Europe, the lesson is the same. If that is not understood in Britain today, it is only because Britain's fighting men saved this country from both experiences. We seem to breed quislings in peace-time.

After long experience, we

We are in danger of losing our national freedom

What happens, however, if, at the IGC and the future European summits Britain proves to be isolated? It will then become a question of whether the effort to remain within the European Union, if it survives, is still worth making. It may be that, before the end of the century, a British government will be obliged to embark upon the difficult task of dismantling itself from the Treaties of Rome and Maastricht in order to work out a new — and one hopes happier — relationship with its neighbours.

It is likely (opinion polls notwithstanding) that the problem will be confronted initially by a Conservative government. But the issue is so serious that it might prove more desirable for the final steps to be taken by a National government, in which elements in the Labour Party who would still wish to see Britain self-governing could be brought into a Cabinet which would have this as its sole or major task.

To prepare for such an eventuality and to follow what is actually happening in Europe and beyond, rather than repeating the empty rhetoric of a generation ago, seems to be the proper task for the coming years of all those to whom British identity is more than an empty shell.

Lord Beloff's book Britain and European Union: A Dialogue of the Deaf will be published in the summer.

Her daughter, Queen Mary, consequently lived a life of frugality, commenting towards the end of her life: "My parents were always in short street." Her thrift set the example for subsequent genera-



## The tiger and the dragon

Chris Patten's popularity proves that Hong Kong will survive 1997

Hong Kong is one of the great cities of the world at a peak moment in its history. Rome at the time of the Emperor Augustus, Venice in the age of Titian, London in the year of Waterloo, New York in the Roaring Twenties must all have had this heady feeling of unlimited energy, of being the city of the future. The energy seems never to cease, by day or night. I awoke early on my first morning here: the clock on the Star Ferry terminal was showing 6.15am, well before dawn: the Hong Kong traffic was almost as busy as at midday. Modern Hong Kong makes any European city seem feeble by comparison. It is the strongest possible symbol of the rise of Asia.

Yet Hong Kong faces an imminent event which no world city, when rising to the height of its power, has ever had to experience before. On July 1, 1997, just 18 months away, the sovereign power will pass from Britain to China. This transfer will occur without the people of Hong Kong being consulted, without the option of independence, and it will take Hong Kong from a democratic to a non-democratic authority. The transfer will be followed by the distillation of the partly democratic Legislative Council, the appointment of a new chief executive and the threatened change to the Bill of Rights.

The majority of the people of Hong Kong have not been given the right to a British passport. We are leaving them with no protection to fall back on. It is an extraordinary and in some ways a shameful transaction. Neither the people of Hong Kong nor of Britain believe that it could have been avoided — the nationalist determination of China to regain Hong Kong could not have been resisted. But it is still shameful for Britain, because the colonial government was itself afraid of democracy, or even of equality of opportunity, for far too long. Only in the late 1970s, a bare 20 years ago, did Chinese people gain equal opportunities in the higher civil service. The China experts who advised successive British governments appealed the Chinese fear of democracy almost right up to the end. Only the last Governor, Chris Patten, has been a genuine democrat in his heart.

Hong Kong opinion itself is divided. There is a very wealthy élite, which has benefited from high real estate prices and low taxes, who are at little risk themselves. They have their overseas passports: they have large offshore funds. Some, though

not all of them have joined the chorus of Chinese criticism of Chris Patten, protesting against the modest advances towards democracy he has tried to make. There has been much talk of the potential loss of business, some of it exaggerated. In fact these Hong Kong business people are increasingly optimistic about the deals they will be able to do with China. The Hong Kong Stock Exchange has been rising sharply.

Chris Patten has followed policies which Britain ought to have pursued at least a generation ago. He came too late to his office for his policies to have become irreversible. But he did win and has kept the support of the mass of the Hong Kong people, particularly of those who do not have the security of foreign passports, overseas bank accounts or second homes in Vancouver. His approval ratings in the opinion polls have never fallen below 50 per cent, and now stand at the extraordinary level of 74 per cent, despite the well-understood fact that his power is waning as the Chinese takeover comes nearer. He is probably now the most popular head of government in any significant country on Earth, three or four times as popular as Alain Juppé or John Major, and five times as popular as Boris Yeltsin. That is because the ordinary people of Hong Kong know that he believes in the democracy which Britain failed in the past to give them, and which China certainly intends to deny them. They see Chris Patten as being on their side, despite the fact that he is the representative of the colonial power which will not give them the security of passports, and even though he is not Chinese and does not even speak their language.

The future of Hong Kong will be decided by the future of China. For the past 15 years China has enjoyed unprecedented economic growth as a result of liberalisation, though that has not been accompanied by progress towards political democracy. In wealthier provinces, the economy has been expanding at around 15 per cent a year, which means doubling every five years. The open economy has

accompanied by increasing corruption, by an excessive enrichment of the political class, and has resulted in growing hostility between the richer and poorer provinces, and between the cities and the peasants. In China, more than anywhere else on Earth, the economy of the 21st century is running side by side with the economy of the Middle Ages. There is also a dangerous division between the Communist power structure and the People's Liberation Army. Furthermore, there is pressure from the ethnic and religious minorities, of which Islam is the largest and most militant but Tibet has the strongest international appeal. This week a Deputy Party Secretary announced in Tibet that "We must further strengthen control over temples and monasteries, continue the patriotic education of monks and nuns and take control of other religious sites."

This economic growth is likely to continue for another 15 years or so, if China's modernisation has the same 30-year time scale as Japan's. So long as growth continues, the Communist regime is likely in some form to

survive — an overall growth rate of around 10 per cent solves many problems. Nevertheless, the Chinese regime is notoriously nervous, reacting to foreign events in an insecure and aggressive manner. Why should it be so nervous, apart from the fact that it has no democratic base and lacks the political authority of popular election? Certainly the leaders' behaviour is counter-productive, and has damaged China's international relations with most countries in Asia and outside.

To borrow an analytical tool from Marxism, China's growth causes contradictions, particularly the classic Marxian contradiction of generating a rising class whose interests are hostile to those of the existing power structure. In 15 years' time, China will have an advanced bourgeois class of business people, professionals, educators, scientists and so on, of at least 300 million people. They will have completely open access to world information. Their average standard of living will be high — many of them will earn between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per household, in current real terms. Such a transformation of Chinese society will be the inevitable consequence of Chinese economic development, but it is also a condition for this economic growth. Without such a class, no state can belong to the modern world, into this new class, Hong Kong will fit perfectly, much better than it fits into the transitional China of the mid 1990s.

This is not the only contradiction. China's economic growth has been

accompanied by increasing corruption, by an excessive enrichment of the political class, and has resulted in growing hostility between the richer and poorer provinces, and between the cities and the peasants. In China, more than anywhere else on Earth, the economy of the 21st century is running side by side with the economy of the Middle Ages. There is also a dangerous division between the Communist power structure and the People's Liberation Army. Furthermore, there is pressure from the ethnic and religious minorities, of which Islam is the largest and most militant but Tibet has the strongest international appeal. This week a Deputy Party Secretary announced in Tibet that "We must further strengthen control over temples and monasteries, continue the patriotic education of monks and nuns and take control of other religious sites."

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## A French historian at Oxford

Norman Stone  
salutes the spirit  
of Richard Cobb

At a grand reception for the visiting French President, the royal equerry inquired after Professor Cobb, saying the Queen would like to meet him. "Ah, perhaps not," he said, when he saw the professor in an alcove, much the worse for wear. That sort of thing happened quite often to Richard Cobb, who died this week aged 78. Indeed, it has happened to a long line of distinguished scholars, not least the great 18th-century Cambridge classicist Richard Porson — to be seen, if Trinity legend has it right, insensible in the arms of two bargees. Nowadays, heroic drinking of this class is quite out of order, but it was a part of what made Richard Cobb tick. He knew the French Revolution inside out, was an outstanding teacher, and wrote some of the finest English historical prose of this century.

I remember my first reading of Cobb. It was a volume of essays called *A Second Identity*, which had an extraordinary breadth, fantastical erudition, and a style as memorable as Orwell's or A.J.P. Taylor's. Despite much fumbling and whirring, this crenellated narrative never quite gets off the ground," he said of one otherwise well-received book.

Cobb had been sent to a French family in the Thirties. He loved the ease of social life there, free from the cramped worlds of Tunbridge Wells and Shrewsbury, being taught how to behave badly while learning to speak and write French superbly.

His youthful experience of France contrasted with a more painful one in Dolfus's Austria. His mother had sent him to learn German in the house of Felix Salten, the author of *Bambi*, but, with Quaker sympathies, had given him subversive literature to distribute around the working-class districts. He was picked up by policemen here with feather-brushes in their hats and kicked all along the Ottakringer Hauptstrasse, as women with huge, baleful faces stared out of the tenement windows, their elbows ensconced in an elbow-accommodating device known as *acecators*. Thus he acquired a hatred of bossy governments.

When, after the war, he was back to France, he lived for years — legend has it — more or less as a *clochard*, looked after, for a time, by the French Communist Party. It did not know what it was doing, for it never had a worse English enemy than Cobb: how he mocked its dinners, where he would spoon his way down to the end of the soup and gradually see the face of Picasso's Stalin ("the coryphaeus of the arts and sciences") emerge at the bottom of the plate.

"Napoleon, that shit," he would say. You might have expected him to revere Napoleon, who, after all, re-introduced order after the Terror. For Cobb, Napoleon was just a big bully, the sort of power-crazed monster whom revolutions create. You were much better off in the world of the festering *ancien régime*, said Cobb: you could rely on it for a laugh, and it would in the end be human. For another of Cobb's dislikes was the technocrat, offering concrete buildings and dead prose and fussy bureaucratic inquiries. He truly hated what had been done to the Paris of his youth by *ghastly* products of schools of administration.

Cobb was very French in his hatred of small nationalities. To this subject he devoted some of his best invective. He wrote an essay about the Belgian-Flemish fascist, Joris van Severen: the rudest and most literate dung ever written about Flemish nationalism, which Cobb detested. It drew endless protests in the *TLS* afterwards. But he knew what had happened in Belgium during the war, and could not see why van Severen, a *transquillon* with perfect French, could ever bother with unipot nationalism.

He spent some years at Aberystwyth, and hated Welsh nationalism with equal venom. His dislike of Irish nationalism underlay perhaps his most notorious book, *A Classical Education*, in which he described the murder by an Irish school friend of his mother. Since Cobb, then an undergraduate, knew something about this, he found himself wanted for extradition, and fled abroad — the best excuse of all time for postponing a tutorial.

What made Richard Cobb possible? That he was part of an élite mattered: friends would cover up for the eccentricities, and loved him for them. He was also very well educated, with an astoundingly broad knowledge of English and French literature. His *finances* were quite chaotic, but when he got his Oxford chair, he could still just about afford a house within walking distance of his college. He needed to walk: the bank threatened to foreclose until he was awarded an CBE.

Nowadays, he would not find it easy to collect half a dozen undergraduates for a special subject involving French as a foreign language, and would be having to fill out forms designed by technocrats to be read by computers, listing his "research output". So the little Napoleons won. But I have a feeling that the memory of Richard Cobb will cheer his country posterity up when they are mouldering in their concrete.

The author is Professor of Modern History at Oxford.

## Tight ship

THE QUEEN looked to her family archives before making it quite clear to the Duchess of York that Buckingham Palace would not stop in to clear her debts. Another royal debtor was given similarly short shrift by the monarch.

Princess Mary Adelaide, the Duchess of Teck and mother of Queen Mary, was a woman with a girth as large as her overdraft with Coutts & Co. She also owed vast sums to tradesmen.

Eventually, in 1878, she took her bengal bowl to her cousin Queen Victoria, who was far from amused. "If once it is done, it will be asked for again and again," declared Victoria, who ordered Princess Mary to give up either her home in Kensington or White Lodge in Richmond Park. "It was far too much for her to undertake to keep up two houses," commented the Queen acidly.

The sad lesson for the Duchess of York is that financial cutbacks, even huge ones, didn't get the Princess out of a scrape. With her husband and her daughter, she was forced to go abroad and live in villas borrowed from friends.

Her daughter, Queen Mary, consequently lived a life of frugality, commenting towards the end of her life: "My parents were always in short street." Her thrift set the example for subsequent genera-

tions — as the Prince of Wales can readily attest. He was once ordered

by his mother, who keeps her butter-wraps in the fridge to scour Sandringham's grounds for many hours for a lost Corgi lead. "Corgi leads cost money," insisted Her Majesty.

Burns night

THE WORLD'S oldest entertainer is too ill to attend his 100th birthday celebrations this week. A bout of flu has kept him confined to his home in Los Angeles since his last outing as a guest at Frank Sinatra's Christmas party.

George Burns, the cigar-wielding comedian known to friends and admirers as God, was due to attend a gala dinner in his honour on Tuesday in Beverly Hills. Instead he sent his regrets. "As this big day came closer and closer people kept asking me what I would like for my 100th birthday," the vaudeville veteran said in a statement read to 300 guests at the Four Seasons Hotel. "What do you give a man who's been so blessed? Another 100 years? A night with Sharon Stone?"

Should that stalker ever catch up with Madonna, he will find her

well prepared. She has started a course of boxing lessons with a martial arts instructor and low-budget movie-star, Paul Mornando, who is a tenth degree black belt. Already, she can fell a man with one blow.

Nellie's way

CAMILLA Parker Bowles's brother, Mark Shand, has marital difficulties. He has been trying to fix up Tara, the female elephant he owns in India, with a husband — and the road to the altar is proving bloody.

First off, the groom Shivaji works in a national park and is officially recognised as a government employee — a mass of Indian bureaucracy had to be negotiated before he could meet his bride. "This is a grudge match," spits

Then, when everything seemed set, Shivaji got the urge. "He was in a sexual frenzy. Killed two people and gored another cow," says Shand, who was at London Zoo yesterday publicising a campaign to save the Arabian Oryx. "I hope he has calmed down and we'll soon hear the thunder of tiny feet."

He was nothing if not candid, the late Richard Cobb, Oxford's former Professor of Modern History. As chairman of the Booker Prize in 1984, he appealed London's literary boasting about having read only two pages of Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu* before flinging it aside for something racier. "Just like everyone else who says they have read it," he explained.

New balls

THE RED-BLOODED trade minister, who reportedly enjoyed a healthy canoodle with a topless model last year is keen on his manly pursuits. As captain of the Commons and Lords rugby team, Philip Oppenheim is taking his players to Paris tomorrow for the annual match against the French Parliamentary team.

"This is a grudge match," spits

Derek has a cunning play to extend his overdraft

the Amber Valley MP. "The French initially refused to play, but we humiliated them into agreeing by leaving a box of tennis balls outside the French Embassy — a reference to Shakespeare's *Henry V*, in which the Dauphin gives the English king a gift of the same as an insult. "It's not the playing that counts — but the winning."

P.H.S.



## SEA OF TROUBLES

Yeltsin is drowning — and the West must look beyond him

The hammer-blows inflicted by last month's Russian parliamentary elections are beginning to take their toll. Andrei Kozyrev, the longest-serving liberal in President Yeltsin's Cabinet, resigned on taking up his Duma seat, and has been replaced as Foreign Minister by Yevgeni Primakov, an old-style *aparatchik* who promptly indicated a return to more confrontational policies. On Tuesday Anatoli Chubais, virtually the sole economic reformer left in Russia's Government, quit, unceremoniously forced out by Mr Yeltsin's denunciation of his record in masterminding mass privatisation. More resignations are expected of key figures. The purge of the reformers is virtually complete; Mr Yeltsin is looking more and more like a traditional, conservative Soviet leader.

The reshuffle was not an automatic result of the elections, which brought back in force the reconstituted Communists and gave Vladimir Zhirinovsky's virulent nationalists the second largest block of seats. Mr Yeltsin still has huge residual powers to govern by decree and to determine the make-up of his Cabinet. But he has sensed the shift in mood, the disillusion with reform and the increasingly vocal anger directed at all those associated with pro-Western or pro-market policies. With his popularity at an all-time low and amid a corroding cynicism about the "sick old man" in the Kremlin, he has jettisoned his former allies, his principles and his promises in an attempt to save his own vainglorious bid for re-election.

Economists maintain that the dismissal of Mr Chubais is less of a disaster than it might seem. He has been an unusually successful

minister — so much so that most of Russia's retail trade is now in private hands, and even the transfer from state control of arthritic heavy industries is now limping forward. No one has yet shown any will to reinstate the command economy; even the Communists are not calling for a return to classic communism. However, almost all Russians are exasperated by the way state concerns are being replaced with private monopolies controlled by criminals, *mafia* interests and the former nomenclature; a change of responsibility for reform may be the best way of preserving the main body of the reforms themselves.

What matters now is the smack of firm government, however irrelevant to the real demands of growth and reform. For the hammer-blows are coming not only from the clamorous Duma, but from the crash of rockets and the mounting death toll in Chechnya. The hijacking of the Turkish ferry and the inevitable broadening of this bitter feud into an international incident increases the pressure on the Russian leader to show himself unbending and implacable. For this reason also, the new Foreign Minister is talking a language that the West has not heard for years — crude nationalism that is seeking to rebuild old alliances with enemies of the West: Saddam Hussein in Iraq and the mullahs in Iran. Mr Yeltsin, in a desperate attempt to keep ahead of the disasters rolling over his Government, is seeking shelter in old attitudes and old policies. The West must soon ask whether it should still offer such visible support for a man floundering in such contradictions.

## PUBLIC COMPANIES

The City should be cautious when deciding Granada or Forte

In the days since our last comment on the Granada/Forte corporate soap opera, its progress has strengthened its hold on viewers. Gerry Robinson, the chief of the Coronation Street maker Granada, has raised his bid for the Forte hotel empire from £3.3 billion to £3.8 billion. Sir Rocco Forte has split the role of chairman and chief executive. New characters have appeared, the latest being John Hoerner, best known for picking up and dusting down what Sir Ralph Halpern left behind at Burton Group. The saviour of Burton is backing Sir Rocco and has agreed to join the board as a non-executive director.

In the City, where the serious action takes place, Granada's stockbrokers have spent almost £400 million acquiring, with some difficulty, 9.9 per cent of Forte's equity. The founding Forte family still control some 8 per cent of the shares. New and influential brokers' circulars yesterday favoured the old management being given another chance. Everything is to play for come next Tuesday's 1pm deadline.

One source of City nervousness is the role of Mercury Asset Management, the pension fund specialist that is the main shareholder in both Granada and Forte. Mr Robinson would hardly have begun his hostile tilt without sounding out his company's principal owners. What fascinates the City cognoscenti is to what extent MAM may have encouraged Granada in its controversial bid for Forte and what MAM's own clients may think about their pension funds being used in this way: if Forte could be a target, what about them, they may think.

Mr Robinson's method of getting to his favoured parts of Forte represents an asset-stripping exercise that would not have disgraced the greatest days of that art. The conglomerate that Mr Robinson is determined to build will start life with some £4 billion of borrowings. In order to shrink this debt burden to more acceptable levels, Granada will then embark on some £2

billion of asset sales at prices unlikely to be enhanced by the visibility of the plan. The price is no longer cheap; the decision for all shareholders will be close. The City will make big profits from the fees of all these transactions. But what still worries viewers outside the City is that such highly-leveraged bidders, a breed which they thought went out after the excesses of the Eighties, are still at large and active.

The voices of this criticism are more popular than political, more likely to be found among customers and small shareholders than in Government or Opposition. The Labour party was unlikely to rush to the defence of an empire that was so staunch a supporter of Margaret Thatcher. The Tories could hardly campaign for so generous a friend. The saga has not, however, gone unnoticed on the Opposition benches — and the City, with an eye on the next election, should take note. Labour has long toed with strengthening the roles of the Office of Fair Trading, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It sees debt mountains as only rarely auguring well for consumers or employees.

Sir Rocco Forte and Mr Robinson are now delivering their final presentations to City institutions, pension funds and insurance companies. These bodies traditionally cast their votes at the last minute. It is also a tradition that the institutions' vote is kept secret, unless the financial house chooses to stand up and be counted. Perhaps this latest battle will mark the beginning of the end for such anonymity. Will pension-holders at last decide to ask what their fund is doing with their money? The public has no reason to encourage highly leveraged asset-stripping exercises and a host of reasons to oppose them. Fund managers should bear in mind on Tuesday that they are entrusted with the public's savings, the public confidence in the City and a good deal else of public interest besides.

## SEIZE THE TIME

MPs must keep the Butterfill Bill alive

Governments whose parliamentary majority has dwindled to almost nothing over a long period in power lose their nerve easily. The present Cabinet's feebleness in the face of trouble or pressure has rarely been as plain as in the miserable saga of the Private Member's Bill on daylight saving which returns to the House of Commons on Friday. No sooner had the Scottish Secretary, Mr Michael Forsyth, threatened ministers with predictions of electoral damage north of the border, than Mr Major's cringing colleagues caved in and refused to back the measure.

Mr John Butterfill's Bill to create an extra hour of afternoon daylight and to bring Britain in line with continental European time will die without government help. The only question remaining is how soon Mr Forsyth succeeds in killing it. The Bill will only have a chance of a second reading and a few more months of life if at least hundred MPs take part in a vote to keep it alive tomorrow.

The Bill, even if doomed by the Cabinet's weakness, deserves longer in the public eye: MPs should take the trouble to turn up. Changing the clocks has already been a long haul and will take more time yet. A few months more of debate will keep the issue alive. Altering the nation's clocks does not belong with what President Bush called the "vision thing". Mr Butterfill's Bill is a commonsense thing. Research suggests that between 100 and 200 deaths on the roads might be saved across the whole of Britain each year by delaying the start of darkness. Crime rates should fall. Old peoples' lives

should be lightened. Sport, tourism and trans-European businesses would all gain.

The Government has made no attempt to dispute the mountain of evidence which has now been gathered — much of it by Whitehall agencies — in favour of daylight saving. Mr Forsyth musters no statistics but merely blusters that changing the clocks would be "deeply damaging in Scotland". His colleagues have meekly accepted that the rhythm of their day and night should be governed by the truculent Scots. Members of the Government have been instructed to abstain on Friday and the whips have put out the word that support for Mr Butterfill would be ill-regarded. Scottish ministers will be allowed to vote against the Bill.

The strength of feeling in Scotland is not in dispute; the question is whether emotion north of the border should settle the question. The greatest good of the greatest number is being sacrificed to save the seats of Mr Forsyth and a handful of his colleagues. The Scottish Secretary should bear in mind the words of Edmund Burke: "Parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation, with one interest, that of the whole; where not local purposes, not local prejudices ought to guide, but the general good, resulting from the general reason of the whole." The best rebuke that MPs of all parties can deliver to the Government's limp cowardice is a large enough presence in the House on Friday morning to prolong the debate. This Bill may not succeed, but one day the change will be made. Time is on the side of sense.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Prison cuts as threat to education, humanity and safety

From Lady Andrew, Chairman, Prisoners' Education Trust

Sir, I regret that in speaking out against the swinging cuts in prison expenditure which are planned for the next financial year (report, January 15) most commentators have emphasised the impact on safety and risk to the public. This serves to inflate public fears and reflects the language now common in discussions of crime and penal policy.

Security is an important consideration. It is, however, obscuring other vital matters which the Prison Service should bear in mind, such as rehabilitation and the reduction of recidivism. In this context, the education of offenders should surely have some priority.

The National Prison Survey, 1991, showed that 43 per cent of offenders have no qualifications and that over 80 per cent left school by 16. A survey of over 600 prisoners in 1985 found that 58 per cent had no chance to improve their educational qualifications while in prison. It has been calculated that almost half of prisoners have low levels of literacy and even more have difficulties with numeracy.

Education gives them something constructive to do during their sentences, a training in the discipline of study and a boost to their self-confidence. It can lead to gaining qualifications, without which it is almost impossible to find work on release. The Prison Service Rule 29 begins: "Every prisoner able to profit from the educational facilities provided at a prison shall be encouraged to do so."

We in the Prisoners' Education Trust see that there is a steady demand for education which is too often thwarted. I am at a loss to understand the logic of forcing governors to make cuts in education

departments. In one London prison, teaching hours will be reduced from over 9,000 to about 3,500 in a year. Education can provide a cost-effective means of attacking the cycle of re-offending. The present proposals are likely to lead to anger and frustration among prisoners and education staff, tensions and difficulties for other prison staff and the possibility of money wasted on the control of unrest and riot. Is this what we want?

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH ANDREW,  
Chairman,  
Prisoners' Education Trust,  
Fleet House,  
173 Haydon Road, SW19.

January 15.

From the General Secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation

Sir, I am increasingly convinced that the mission statement for the Prison Service that reads, "Our duty is to look after [prisoners] with humanity and help them lead law-abiding and useful lives in custody after release" could now, reasonably, be dropped.

Education gives them something constructive to do during their sentences, a training in the discipline of study and a boost to their self-confidence. It can lead to gaining qualifications, without which it is almost impossible to find work on release. The Prison Service Rule 29 begins: "Every prisoner able to profit from the educational facilities provided at a prison shall be encouraged to do so."

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ELIZABETH ANDREW,  
Chairman,  
Prisoners' Education Trust,  
Fleet House,  
173 Haydon Road, SW19.

January 15.

From Mr John Harding

Sir, The cuts which have just been announced will make prison conditions even less conducive to good order and effective rehabilitation.

In the six London prisons alone they could lead to the withdrawal of about 25 probation officers from a complement of 59. These staff are involved in assessing the risk posed by individual prisoners and preparing them for release on supervision. Failure to invest adequately in this work will threaten public safety and worsen their chances of resettlement.

In our discussions with them, prison governors have been well aware of these consequences but are faced with unavoidable choices between unacceptable alternatives. The notion that "prison works" is dubious. It is likely to be devolved even further by stripping away those opportunities that exist to increase prisoners' skills and change their behaviour.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN HARDING,  
(Chief Probation Officer),  
Inner London Probation Service,  
71/73 Great Peter Street, SW1.

January 16.

From Mr Anicra F. Evans

Sir, The Bishop of Worcester uses his residence, Hartlebury Castle, for diocesan purposes: for example, interviews for clergy (and their wives) who have applied to be presented to a living. At one such meeting, held in 1989, the 19 people attending, including the archdeacon, six wardens and myself, were involved in five separate confidential discussions. Such meetings are by no means uncommon.

Another use may be a meeting with an overseas Christian leader. On all such occasions, an important and indeed, for Christians, a very useful facility is the chapel, sleep in history: I believe that the bishop and his visitors use it on a daily basis. I have certainly prayed there several times.

The Church Commissioners must not be allowed to sell Hartlebury Castle without first consulting the parishes of the diocese directly, and secondly without making serious endeavour to recover a large part of the gigantic deficit for which they are responsible.

Domestically, the house is relatively inconvenient. I have no doubt that the bishop and his wife live there out of duty rather than choice.

Yours sincerely,  
ANICRA F. EVANS  
(Lay patron of the United Benefice of Clifton-on-Teme, Lower Sapey and the Shelsleys),  
Harpley House,  
Clifton-on-Teme, Worcestershire.

January 11.

From Mrs Sarah Griffiths

Sir, According to the chaplain to the new Bishop of Portsmouth bishops are being evicted from their large houses to ones "which will suit the needs of a bishop in the 21st century". Will small congregations in large churches also be asked to move?

Yours faithfully,  
SARAH GRIFFITHS,  
The Birches,  
Worcs.

Vowchurch Common, Herefordshire.

January 11.

From Mr Peter Petts

Sir, With due respect to Sir Michael Angus et al, who are probably chauffeur-driven to their offices for 10am, my pickers and packers (some of them on bicycles) come to work at 8am. At present it is not daylight until 8am. If the proposed changes are effected, next year it will not be light until nine.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER PETTS  
(Chief Executive),  
The Herbarium,  
Prickwillow, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

and told that he would have to use the normal toilet facilities at the far end of the station".

Clearly Eurostar to Paris is quite a different experience from Eurostar from Paris.

Yours sincerely,  
ANTHONY FIELD,  
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2.

From Mrs Elodie Stanley

Sir, Less than 20 minutes out of the Gare du Nord en route to Waterloo on Sunday, I decided to visit the toilet car, with the inevitable *ile de France* of a train well provisioned in Paris. There I found a modest queue but, when I reached its head, no food (unless you count the last tuna sandwich and the only remaining cheeseburger).

Eurnstar or Eurostar?

Yours faithfully,  
ELODIE STANLEY,  
12 Stanley Crescent, W11.

January 15.

From the Reverend Dr P. J. Galloway

Sir, Instead of the politically correct but impossibly confusing bi-coloured chess pieces proposed by Mr Michael Parker (letter, January 16), why not move through the looking-glass and take a leaf from the far from nonsensical world of Alice: replace the tetchy, but essentially good-natured, relations between white and

Yours sincerely,  
PETER GALLOWAY,  
The Vicarage,  
Lyncroft Gardens, NW6.

January 16.

### Sports letters

From Mr H. W. Landre

Sir, William Rees-Mogg may be forgiven for not knowing that Terry Venables is renowned in footballing circles as the first player to represent England at all age levels ("This is a whole new ball game for me", January 15), but he certainly should have been aware that the usurper who overthrew Richard II was Henry IV (Bolingbroke), not Henry V.

Yours faithfully,  
H. W. LANDRE,  
24 Pochin Drive,  
Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

Sports letters, page 45

### Share sales

From Mr Christopher Rouse

Sir, I have today sold 500 Forte shares in the market at 36p per share, 4p per share higher than the "final" cash offer from Granada.

Surely it is wrong that the tax treatment of institutions and pension funds enables them to pay me this 4p per share premium in what is supposedly a free and orderly market.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER ROUSE,  
Flat One, 9 Coleherne Road, SW10.

January 15.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

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Eurnstar or Eurostar?



## COURT CIRCULAR

### SANDRINGHAM

January 17: The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller at the Memorial Service for Mr Geoffrey Cross (founder Chairman of the Royal Windsor Horse Show) who died in St Michael's Church, Bray, Berkshire, today.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Sir Brian McGrath.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Colonel Gerard Leigh.

The Duke and Duchess of York were represented by Captain Neil Blair, RN.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland.

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 17: The Princess Royal this morning presented the 1995 Workwear Business Awards at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon attended a luncheon for

Lady Norreys gave birth to a son in Gibraltar on January 15.

### Memorial celebration

Professor James Edward Meade A celebration of the life and work of Professor James Edward Meade will be held on Saturday, March 2, 1996, at 2.30pm in the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge.

### Dinners

**HM Government**  
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a dinner given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of the Bolivian Vice-President.

**Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company**

Mr Peter Sparks, Master of the Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company, presented the Coachmakers' Award to Industry to Mr John Towers, Chief Executive of the Rover Group, at a court and livery luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. Mr Anthony Sparks and Lieutenant-Colonel R.T. Harris also spoke.

### Lord Feldman

The life barony conferred upon Sir Basil Feldman has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Feldman, of Freginal in the London Borough of Camden.

### Lady Wilcox

The life barony conferred upon Judith Ann Lady Wilcox has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness Wilcox, of Plymouth in the County of Devon.

### Birthdays today

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 63; Air Marshal Sir Alfred Ball, 75; Mr Robert Banks, MP, 59; Mr Peter Beard, footballer, 35; Dr David Bellamy, botanist, writer and broadcaster, 63; Sir Michael Bent, former chairman, Social Security Advisory Committee, 61; Mr John Boorman, film director, 63; Mr Raymond Briggs, illustrator and author, 62; Professor M.J. Brown, clinical pharmacologist, 45; Mr David Burke, Chief Constable, North Yorkshire, 57; Mr J.R. Carr, former chairman, Countryside Commission of Scotland, 69; Mr Kevin Costner, actor, 41; Mr Richard Dunwoody, jockey, 32; Mr Christian Fittipaldi, racing driver, 25; the Hon Sir Rocco Forte, chief executive, Forte, 51; Sir William Goodhart, QC, 52; Dr D.J. Grant, Lord Lieutenant of County

Durham, 74; Mr James Hamm, former chairman, Scottish Nuclear, 63; Sir William Harding, diplomat, 69; Mr Robert Hicks, MP, 88; Terence Higgins, MP, 68; Mr John Hougham, chairman, ACAS, 59; Mr David Howell, MP, 60; Mr John Hume, MP, MEP, 59; Mr Edward James, diplomat, 79; Dame Jennifer Jenkins, former chairman, National Trust, 75; Mr Paul Keating, Prime Minister of Australia, 52; Mr Martin Laing, chairman, John Laing, 54; Sir Godfrey Le Quenne, QC, former chairman, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, 72; Sir Peter Preston, civil servant, 74; Sir Nigel Strutt, former chairman, Strutt and Parker (Farms), 80; Sir Walter Verco, former secretary, Order of the Garter, 88; Sir Ralph Verney, landowner, 81; Sir Clive Whitmore, civil servant, 61.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will launch Childline's 10th Birthday appeal at the Savoy Hotel at noon.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, will attend the presentation of Gold awards by the President of Ireland in Dublin Castle at 6.00, and later will attend the 10th anniversary dinner.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Home Farm Trust, will attend a reception for current and prospective patrons at BAFTA, Piccadilly, at 11.30; as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, will visit Kensington and Chelsea Safe Cities project, Dartrey Tower, World's End Estate and an Chelsea Town Hall from 2.00; and, as Patron of the Butler Trust, she will view an exhibition and attend a reception for HMP service staff at Cleland House, Page Street, SW1, at 3.45. Later, as Past Master of the Lorraine's Company, she will attend a dinner at Vintners' Hall at 7.30.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will attend the Windsor and Eton Society's golden jubilee dinner at the Castle Hotel, Windsor, at 7.45.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**

January 17: The Prince of Wales this morning opened the Vixen Abstraction Scheme at Baxters Visitors' Centre, Fochabers, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Morayshire (Air Vice-Marshal George Chisholm).

**YORK HOUSE**

January 17: The Duke of Kent, President of the Business and Technology Education Council, today attended the Student of the Year Awards at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1.

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

**Today's events**

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### Luncheons

**HM Government**  
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of the Danish Foreign Minister.

**HM Government**  
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House, in honour of the Bolivian Vice-President.

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**Mr Geoffrey Cross**  
The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller and the Duke of Edinburgh by Sir Brian McGrath at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Geoffrey Cross, founder chairman of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, held yesterday at St Michael's, Bray-on-Thames.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Colonel Gerard Leigh, the Duke and Duchess of York by Captain Neil Blair, RN. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland.

**DEATHS**  
Jan van Riebeck, surgeon and founder of Cape Town, South Africa, 1677; Sir John Pringle, physician and President of the Royal Society, 1772; London, 1792; Edward Bulwer-Lytton, 1st Baron Lytton, novelist and politician, 1873; Rudyard Kipling, first British writer to be awarded the Nobel prize for literature, 1907, London, 1936; Sir Cecil Beaton, photographer, Broad Chalke, Wiltshire, 1980.

Captain Cook discovered the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), 1770.

William of Prussia was proclaimed as the 1st German Emperor, 1871.

Captain Scott and his expedition arrived at the South Pole, 1912.

The Versailles Peace conference opened, 1919.

**Latest wills**

Sir Kingsley William Amis of London NW1, the novelist and poet, left estate valued at £543,685 net.

He appointed his son Martin Lamb and Jonathan Clowes, his literary executors, and his wife, a widow, and his unpublished works, manuscripts and letters and rights therein to the British Library. He left £1,000 to Lily Unite of Ware, and 374 lots of the residue of his estate to his wife, Sally, and Martin and J.148,000 residue to Hilary A Kilmacqua.

Mr David George Francois Nickerison, of London W1, an antiquities dealer, former managing director of Malletts in Bond Street, left estate valued at £601,782 net. Other estates include net, before tax:

Dr James Cranoud of London SW10, £666,500.

Mr John Forrester Elliott of Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, £625,214.

Mrs Gerda Marta Freudenberg of Regale, Surrey, £172,485.

**Sir Thomas Devitt**

A memorial service for Sir Thomas Devitt, former England Rugby International, was held yesterday at St Leonard's, London, Croydon, the Rev Stephen Carter officiated. Mr Edward Parker, grandson, read the lesson and Sir James Devitt, son, gave an address.

Representatives of the Rugby Football Union, the Seaford Highlanders, Sherborne School, Pangbourne College and the National Service for Seafarers were among those present.

**Sir Trenchard Cox**

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Trenchard Cox, a former Director and Secretary of the Victoria and Albert Museum, was held yesterday at St

Paul's, Covent Garden, London.

**DEATHS**

**SHICKFORD** - Irene, widow of Mr and Mrs John Shickford, a son, Christopher William Shickford, his wife, a widow, and a son, Robert, a son, and a daughter, and a daughter for Robert and Pamela Parsons.

**RUMPH -** On January 28th, 1996, at 10.30 am, at the Portland Hospital, London, Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**DANIELS -** On 12th January 1996, at the Portland Hospital, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**GOLD -** On 25th December 1995, at 10.30 am, at the Portland Hospital, London, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**HITCHCOCK -** On January 12th, 1996, at the Portland Hospital, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**COOPER -** On 9th January 1996, at 10.30 am, at the Portland Hospital, London, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**MCGUINN -** On January 10th, 1996, at the Portland Hospital, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**MIDDLETON -** On 14th January 1996, at 10.30 am, at the Portland Hospital, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**PARKER -** On January 16th, 1996, at 10.30 am, at the Portland Hospital, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**PARSONSON -** At 6.30 am on 12th January 1996, at the Portland Hospital, London, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**SCHEERER -** On January 16th, 1996, at 10.30 am, at the Portland Hospital, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**DEATHS**

**BLAKEY -** Zaida Ann, aged 148, peacefully in hospital aged 79 years.

Widow of John, much loved partner and devoted grandmother. Co-founder of the Caring for the Elderly Trust.

**DEATH -** W.G. Lee, of J.B. Clegg and Son, London, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**GARSTEN -** Sudders and Michaela Rumph, died on January 12th, 1996, at 10.30 am.

**HANDBERG -** Richard Hugh, aged 72 years, on January 12th, 1996, at 10.30 am.

**MOORE -** Edward and Lucy, parents of Edward and Lucy, deceased on January 12th, 1996, at 10.30 am.

**SCOTT -** On January 12th, 1996, at 10.30 am, at the Portland Hospital, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**WHITE -** On January 12th, 1996, at 10.30 am, at the Portland Hospital, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

**WILSON -** On January 12th, 1996, at 10.30 am, at the Portland Hospital, to Michaela Rumph, a daughter, Katherine Marie, a sister for Jeanne, and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Mathew.

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**WILSON -** On January 12th, 1996, at 1



## Costa del Sol still shines

BRITISH holidaymakers still outnumber all others in the Costa del Sol. Last year 1.1 million arrived at Malaga airport - 36 per cent of the total number of arrivals. The Spanish themselves totalled 824,599, the Germans 264,542 and the French a mere 160,859, says the Costa del Sol tourist board.

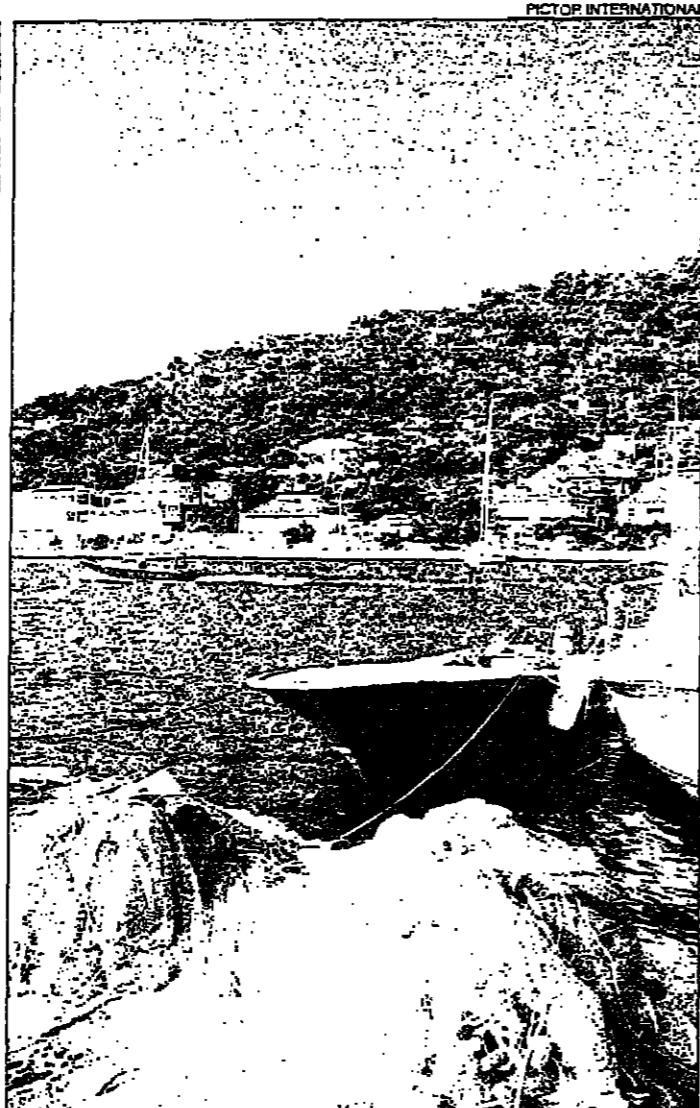
Word of the attractions of the Costa del Sol is spreading throughout the former Eastern bloc. In 1994 there were no Russian visitors but last year 26,624 arrived at Malaga airport.

## Venice rocks

ST MARK'S Square in Venice is being taken over on February 17 and 18 for a free festival of electric and acoustic "world music" likely to attract 100,000 people. Womad - World of Music, Arts and Dance - will stage the show, which will feature performances by the Paris-based Papa Wemba and other musicians from four continents.

## Wanderlust

WHITBREAD the brewery is investing £25,000 in the Heineken travel bursary to encourage young people to fulfil their thirst for adventure. The bursary will be available to anyone aged between 18 and 35 who convinces the company that they are genuine in their urge to travel and who want to fulfil their "wildest dreams". Heineken says that last year 182,000 young Britons went to the Far East and 305,000 to Australia.



Most of Anguilla's popular haunts were destroyed by Hurricane Luis

# Hurricane clean-up

FROM ANTHONY HOLDEN IN ANGUILLA

THE PHONE was still out of order, and a mid-afternoon shower had turned the car park into a quagmire. But the food was spot-on, and fine wines flowed like rum punch last Saturday night as 40 people turned out for the reopening of Mango's, one of Anguilla's most popular beachside restaurants.

To David Schnittlich, a New Jersey, long a regular visitor to this small but most select of Caribbean islands, Mango's was simply "my favourite restaurant in the whole world". So last June he sold up his East Coast bagel chain and bought the place, in partnership with his wife, Carol, and a chef from one of Anguilla's luxury hotels.

As the Schnittlichs moved their woddy goods south to the sun, he closed Mango's for a three-month overhaul - only to watch dumbstruck on September 5, a week short of his grand reopening, as Hurricane Luis swept in and blew all his dreams away.

"Next morning," he says, "I sat on the beach and wept for an hour." All that remained of his elegant, ocean-lapped restaurant were a few chunks of twisted concrete, tossed around like children's building blocks by Luis.

Mango's second coming could not have happened unless the seasoned Schnittlichs, unlike many of Anguilla's smaller-scale entrepreneurs, had taken out insurance. The azure coastline of this British crown colony holds many tales

with less happy endings. In the eye of the storm for 14 hours, Anguillians awoke to find their island had been "browned" - deprived of its lush greenery and robbed of many of the pleasure domes beloved of its well-heeled holiday clientele - on the brink of the winter season.

Not merely had roofs been blown off, walls demolished, floors undermined and furniture waterlogged, but whole beaches had disappeared, depriving some of the West Indies' finest resort of their *raison d'être*. At the luxury Cap Juluca this week, a dredger is rebuilding the mile-long beach along Maunday's Bay before the planned reopening next month of the hotel's 70 ritzy rooms.

On Barnes Bay the once-famous Cocoloba stands empty and devastated, a *Mary Celeste* among swank hotels, its pool full of rotting debris, its palatial halls as ravaged and windswept as the ghostly Xanadu at the end of Orson Welles's *Citizen Kane*.

Among other hotels familiar to British holidaymakers from the brochures of such firms as Caribbean Connection, the exotic Casablanca on Rendezvous Bay (where the Queen stayed in 1994) also stands empty, pending its imminent re-opening under new American management as the Sonesta Beach Resort. Over at Cinnamon Reef in Little Harbour, however, it is business as usual after a heroic recovery from extensive damage -

chronicled in one of the before-and-after picture albums now found all over Anguilla.

Another survivor is the exclusive Shoal Bay West villa complex of Cow Castle, haunt of movie stars and other celebrities, much of whose beach has gone west - ending up outside the (destroyed and rebuilt) Paradise Cafe. "We're not too bothered," Norman Luxembourg, the manager, says. "Mother Nature will bring it back by June."

Above it all - literally as well as metaphorically, atop its stately Meads Bay bluff - rose the legendary Maliouhana, whose founder-owner Leon Roydon scarcely blinked when Luis made off with the wooden roof of his ocean-view restaurant and pillaged his lavish gardens. Closed in September, as luck would have it, Mr Roydon didn't hang around for insurance assessors before replacing the roof and repainting the walls, importing 20 container-loads of palm trees from Florida, and welcoming his October guests as if nothing much had happened.

Built to withstand 160mph winds and the strongest earthquakes, the Maliouhana, widely regarded as the Caribbean's finest hotel, is the only resort on the island now functioning at capacity. Amid the wreckage Luis left behind were Anguilla's 1995-96 tourist figures: "But we are bouncing back," Mr Roydon, also a member of the island's tourist board, says. "Anguillians are very resilient."

## Scotland is tops with US tourists

BY STEVE KEENAN

NORTH Americans discovering Britain by rail are choosing Scotland ahead of more traditional tourist areas. Four Scottish cities appear in the Top 20 cities, with Edinburgh second only to London and ahead of York.

Inverness also outstrips Bath and Chester, while Glasgow and Aberdeen have more appeal than Windermere in the Lake District, Cambridge and Stratford-upon-Avon do not appear at all.

The figures come from British Rail International, which has sold £20 million-worth of rail passes to American and Canadian tourists in the past year, worth on average £150 for a week's travel.

"The Americans love the trains because they don't really use them at home. But Britain has a highly developed network and Scotland is a big attraction to them," Ross Furby, managing director of BR International, says.

"If they buy a BR pass, people decide on average to go to three or four cities in the UK. Rail passes are a big growth area for us and sales are going up. We are pushing hard in the US."

BR International's Top 10 towns and cities for North American tourists are: 1. London; 2. Edinburgh; 3. York; 4. Inverness; 5. Bath; 6. Chester; 7. Oxford; 8. Glasgow; 9. Aberdeen; 10. Windermere.

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## Hotels that take the sauce

**BAILIFFSCOURT** Hotel in West Sussex prides itself on its ability to pamper guests, especially over a weekend when they can sleep in four-poster beds, read the Sunday papers in front of log fires in their own large bedroom-cum-sitting room and walk along the windswept pebble beach at Climping near Bognor Regis.

Last weekend I enjoyed just such a break in the "medieval" hotel (it was built from 13th, 14th and 15th-century timbers, stone and glass) called from the current owners still blith to think about.

But like so many other good hotels with aspirations, Bailiffscourt betrays that lack of class which ultimately separates the good from the great by its attitude to sauce. Brown sauce. Preferably HP.

I had ordered poached eggs on toast for breakfast. And, sure enough, they came perfectly cooked, on crisp toast, served with hot, well-brewed tea. But when I asked what I consider an essential part of such a meal - HP sauce - I got a look approaching that drawn on waiters' faces by

**The Travel Business**  
HARVEY ELLIOTT

H.M. Bateman in his "man who . . . cartoons": "We don't," I was told tartly, "have brown sauce of any sort here Sir."

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**TEA-MAKING** equipment which is prominently displayed with little packets of tea and coffee and UHT milk in tiny cartons is appalling. A kettle stored discreetly out of sight but with jars of coffee and good tea and - most important of all - fresh milk in a fridge or mini-bar is style, especially if the hotel makes it plain that there are also staff who will happily bring you tea or coffee at any time of the day or night.

Radios built into the bedside cabinet that never seem to work properly but which, you are told, are the only means of obtaining a wake-up call, are a clear indication that the hotel has a long way to go.

But we all have our own prejudices and snobberies. My weekend really was relaxing and I enjoyed so many aspects of Bailiffscourt. It would have been perfect had I been able to get my HP sauce.

## Holiday bookings slump

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

AS HOLIDAYMAKERS continue to shun summer packages and bookings stubbornly remain about 25 per cent below last year's levels, official figures have revealed the full extent of the sales slump within the travel industry.

The leading five tour operators have reduced the number of holidays they have applied for licences to sell this year by 17.3 per cent, 11.5 per cent fewer than they sold last summer.

The top five together accounted for more than 60 per cent of all the airline seats and holidays officially licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) last summer.

Tour operators are prepared to sell fewer holidays at profitable prices rather than be left with holidays that have to be sold at uneconomic prices in the late-booking market," says Helen Simpson, head of licensing and finance at the CAA.

The average price of a foreign package holiday increased from £366 in 1994 to £361 last year, says the CAA, and the number of holidaymakers flying from Britain rose by about 7 per cent in 1994. But the figures fail to show the sudden drop in sales which led to widespread discounting during the year.

There was an increase in passenger numbers but prices were clearly under pressure - there was a fall in average results despite the fact that tour operators had to bear higher costs and taxes than in the summer of 1994," Mrs Simpson says.

The industry had hoped that

bookings would have begun to increase by mid-January, but there is little sign of an upturn and they remain about 25 per cent down on the same time last year. The worst hit destination is Greece, with bookings down 40 per cent on 1995.

Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, Britain's second largest retail travel agency, forecasts that total package holiday bookings will still be 15-20 per cent down by the end of January. Even to achieve this gloomy result, the trade will need to see a sharp improvement during the next fortnight.

However, Fiona Stewart, of the Henley Centre for Forecasting, told members of the Tourism Society this week that there was no evidence of diminished desire by Britons to take a holiday.

She blamed a combination of two developments for "tricking" consumer confidence: the retreat of the "nanny state" and the prevalence of temporary employment contracts.

But against that, she said, stands the Dunkirk spirit.

"When things look bleak we have to take greater responsibility for our own welfare, every now and then people say, 'let's forget it all and have a good time'.

They are not prepared to make long-term commitments but at some stage they are going to say, 'I've had enough, let's go and have a holiday.'

Mr Bennett told the same meeting: "There are people out there who are not yet convinced that they are getting the best deal or that there is going to be a shortage of holidays."

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Now I have eaten breakfasts brought to their full glory by brown sauce in some of the best hotels in Britain and its former colonies around the world. The very best hotels bring it in the bottle. Those that are still trying to make the grade serve it cooly in little pots with a spoon, lest other guests are offended. Then come hotels such as Bailiffscourt which, although otherwise good, convince themselves that brown sauce is eaten only by the people who really have no place in their establishment.

At the very bottom of the heap, of course, come those that serve sauce in appalling plastic sachets which have to be ripped open with your teeth.

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